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AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN THE  
CANADIAN WEST.



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# An Englishwoman in the Canadian West

BY

ELIZABETH KEITH MORRIS



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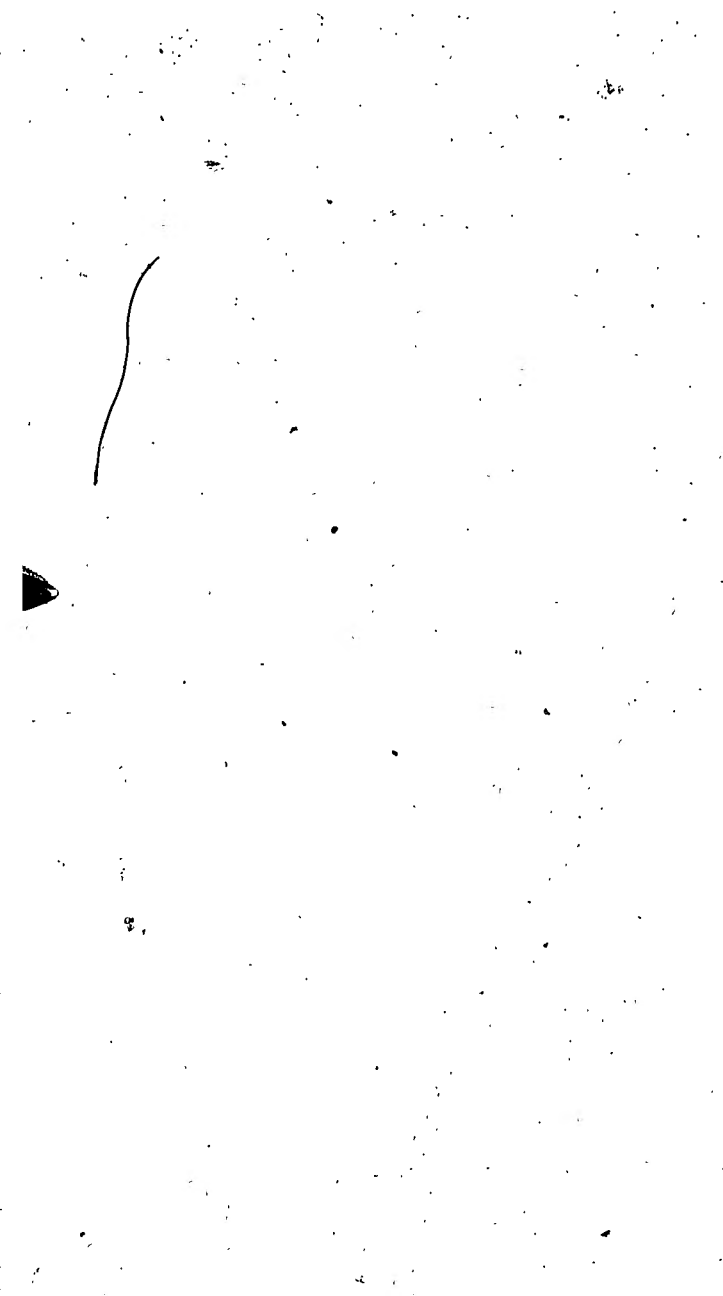
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To

MY BROTHER GEORGE.





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# An Englishwoman in the Canadian West.


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## CHAPTER I.

### OUR LONGING FOR CHANGE.

"You surely are not going to that detestable country," said the growler from Littletown, who posed as a Canadian Encyclopædia; "it has a beastly climate, uncouth inhabitants, and the few existing social amenities are not worthy to be designated as such. Besides, you'll be bored to death with the eternal newness of everything, which, far from proving attractive, is merely crude and primitive. Be wise, and take a friend's advice."

But that was just what we did not wish to take, for the lure of the West, with its haunting fascination, had laid its magic spell upon us. We were tired of everything old — tired of the conventions which hedged us in on all sides, tired of the sameness of everyone with whom we came in contact, tired of the stupid little narrow ideas which were considered highly proper and correct. Some streak in our



natures rebelled. Above all, we were tired of the artificiality, insincerity and formal coldness which seemed to cover everyone and everything as with a cloak. Like young colts, we longed to kick over the traces. Canada had called to us with clarion note, and the summons proved irresistible. We cared naught for the opinions of certain alarmists, who prophesied that never again should we return to our native land, for in that western "wilderness" bears or Indians would bring our adventurous spirits to an untimely end. I learnt, however, to load a rifle, and after a time to shoot fairly straight without suffering nervous apprehension as to whether it "would go off by itself." Then, just as we considered everything settled, the previous opposition of our parents returned in double measure. We almost despaired of bringing them to a reasonable frame of mind. They were essentially English, and like many parents of the present day living in the tight little island, were determined, if possible, to kill any budding desires and aspirations for a broader, freer life. They utterly failed to understand that an English home, however comfortable, fails at times to satisfy the cravings of some natures. These same desires we inherited from an ancestor who had "done things," "and what was the use," we asked, "of our possessing an enterprising ancestor if we could not follow in his footsteps?"

We scored one on this point, for this branch of the family tree had been held up to us from childhood as something worthy of emulation.

Mother, determined not to relinquish her opposition

## OUR LONGING FOR CHANGE.

too suddenly, averred that we should be utterly unsuited to return to a civilised land after living amongst "savages." We promised faithfully to keep careful watch over each other in order to preserve our present standard. "Besides," we informed our fond parent, "think of the good we may do the Indians."

This last remark rather pleased us, and we still aver that it was the culminating weapon with which we secured mother's reluctant consent, for she is very religious. We pushed the advantage further, and managed to convince her that we were not merely on adventure bent, but were desirous to help in the uplifting of the human race. The sublime conceit of it all! Like many English people, we considered our race superior to any other, and imagined that when we entered another country we should be conferring a benefit upon the inhabitants. Perhaps our youth and ignorance was some excuse for the sentiment.

The date of our sailing was in time definitely settled, and at last the great day arrived. Friends and relations, who insisted upon witnessing our departure, made the occasion somewhat painful by their protracted and lachrymose farewells. We kept repeating the cheerful advice that various officials had given us, informing our listeners that Canada was not merely the abode of the Indian, but that white people of different nationalities, anxious to secure homes and fortunes, had settled there. Our relatives' verbal protests and unbelief in information given by *any* officials was cut short by the order that all visitors must go ashore.

## AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN THE CANADIAN WEST.

It was not long before the steamer was well under weigh, and we left the land of our birth to the accompaniment of waving handkerchiefs and loud cheers.

Spring being over, we did not anticipate rough weather with its accompanying distressful *mal de mer*, and in the days that followed this surmise proved correct.

The modern up-to-date liner, with its luxurious comfort, its attentive officers and excellent cuisine, helped to dispel our feeling of home-sickness, and rendered the voyage pleasant and restful. Concerts, whist drives and sports formed a welcome diversion to reading, walking and conversation, and certainly were a considerable aid in relieving any monotony the passengers may have experienced. For us the voyage was all too short, and it was with feelings of real regret that we sighted Canada's shores.

Passing through the Straits of Belle Isle, we entered the St. Lawrence, and later the picturesque heights of Quebec came into view. This city, full of historical associations, has been aptly named "the Gibraltar of North America." Before the days of modern artillery it was absolutely impregnable, owing to the glacis that still leads up to the citadel, a distance of one hundred feet, and which was built under the direction of the Duke of Wellington.

Having learnt that the steamer would remain at Quebec for a few hours, in order that the steerage passengers might disembark, we decided to see the sights and hired a *calèche* for the purpose. The French *habitant* who acted as jehu, pointed out

## OUR LONGING FOR CHANGE.

the various places of interest as we passed them. Quebec possesses many fine buildings, but has not altered very much since the time that it was a colony of Louis the Magnificent, and to-day has the appearance, to a certain extent, of a mediæval French city owing to its narrow streets. Our cabman, who seemed to be in an expansive mood, volunteered the information that most interesting excursions are to be made in the neighbourhood—to the Falls of Montmorency, the Falls of St. Anne, the Lakes of Beauport and St. Charles and many others. We bore this information in mind for future use, for as time was pressing we had to take a reluctant farewell of this very quaint city, with its upper and lower town forming a startling contrast in architecture, cleanliness and humanity.

Quebec is naturally familiar to all Britishers as the scene of Wolfe's memorable attack in 1759, and as we steamed up the St. Lawrence, *en route* to the summer port of Canada, our conversation turned on this stirring historical event, when Wolfe and the French commander, Montcalm, met death on the battlefield. We admired the sporting instincts of Quebec's inhabitants, for a column forty feet high stands in their midst bearing testimony to the courage of both heroes. The language of the dead Frenchman is still much in evidence, for about ninety per cent. of the inhabitants are of French extraction.

Nothing could have been more peaceful, than our surroundings as the steamer made her way quietly up the river. Villages and towns dotted the shores on either side, and served not only as an amusing test



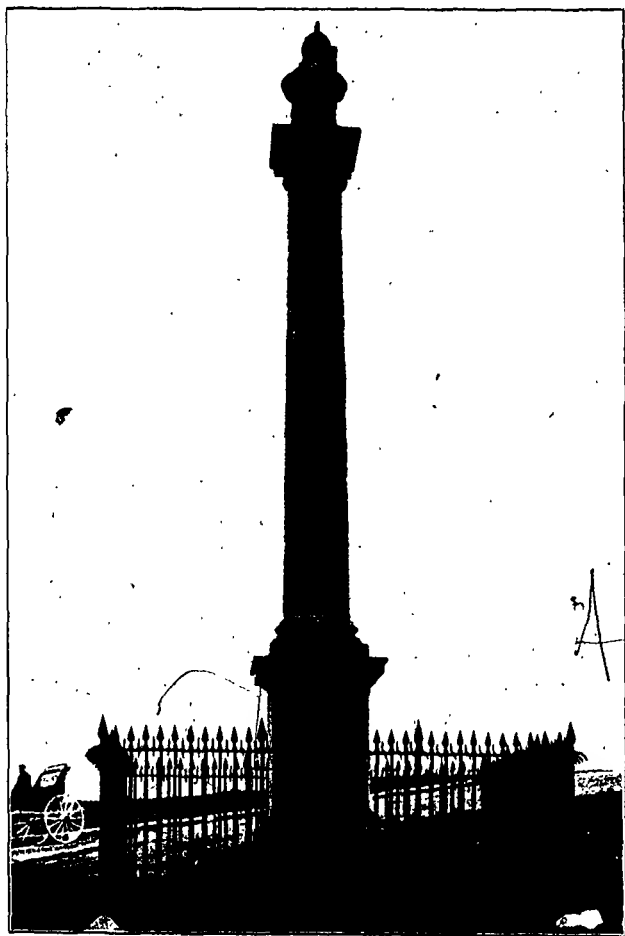
of geographical knowledge, but kept the Kodak enthusiasts well occupied.

The next day we entered Montreal, the commercial metropolis of Canada, which challenges the ultimate supremacy of New York as the premier seaport of the continent.

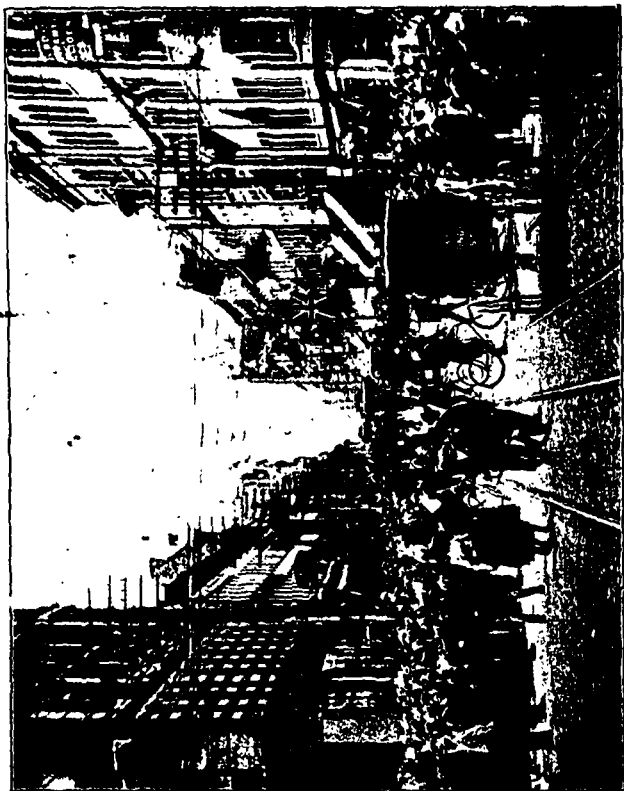
When we boarded the Toronto express in the evening an interesting discussion arose anent the Montreal streets. We considered that the handsome buildings and the stately churches, surrounded as they are by beautiful scenery, were worthy of well-laid-out streets, instead of the present ill-conditioned roads. Let Montrealers remove this eyesore from their charming city.

After passing a comfortable night in the "sleeper," we arrived at Toronto early in the morning, having covered a distance of 334 miles. Our tickets allowed "stop-overs," so we decided to see something of the "Queen City" of Canada. Toronto was founded as a French trading post in 1749, and retains something of an old-world look in its narrow streets. One of these, the famous Yonge Street, extends for sixty miles. Needless to say, this is far beyond the city's limits. Owing to the absence of "sky-scrapers," the city possesses quite a charm of its own, and in the residential portions pretty homes, nestling amongst trees, are a welcome change after the "blocks" which meet the eye in other cities.

Toronto is the recognised centre of education and culture, and we expected to find the inhabitants of a somewhat scholastic and forbidding aspect. The trim, jolly-looking girls, with their rosy cheeks,



*Wolfe Monument, Quebec.*



*Yonge Street, Toronto.*

quite took our fancy, and we fell to wondering how the present fashions would suit their somewhat stiff figures when they reached their city. Good-natured, too, they are to strangers, for one lady insisted upon taking us to a street we were looking for. I have yet to learn, however, why it is that Torontonians consider their city essentially English.

The next day we boarded the train for Winnipeg. English fog and English reserve had been rapidly oozing out of our pores under the influence of Canadian sunshine, which is reflected in the hearts of her people. We felt gladly responsive to the friendly overtures made by our fellow-passengers, and were quite a jolly party by the time we entered the spacious dining-car, where we partook of a most excellent menu, served *à la carte*.

We heard that more than 200,000 people each year are entering Canada, and nearly one-half of them are farmers from the Western States, who are taking possession of the best land. We cogitated how we could bring these facts home to our countrymen, for we knew that the right kind of Englishman could do as well as an American any day, when he had learned Canadian methods. Later we photographed him doing it.

In the morning we reached Winnipeg. This metropolis of the West, with its wholesale houses and banks transacting business with every portion of the civilised globe, fascinated us. We looked with admiration at the broad, well-laid-out streets teeming with hustle and bustle. The very air seemed alive. Winnipeg has been laid out on big lines, and big she

intends to be, for the forceful optimism of her people knows no going back. We caught the infection.

A few days later we boarded the train for Edmonton, and the comfort and courtesy which had characterised our former travelling was again in evidence, and added to our enjoyment of seeing vast areas of the finest grain-growing country in the North-West. The prairie filled us with wonder, it looked so vast and unending, and we heard with amazement of the wealth which lies hidden in its soil for those who will plant the seed.

All along the route were towns and villages, with their mammoth elevators, the latter standing evidences of the country's wealth. We began to understand why Winnipeg is the greatest grain market in the British Empire. We passed out of the Province of Manitoba, where farmhouses and barns furnish ample evidence of the fertility and productiveness of the deep dark loam, into Saskatchewan. A wonderful future awaits this province through her wheat, and we heard many golden prophecies from old, experienced farmers. The man of brain and sinew, with the capacity to work out his own salvation, not in fog and rain, but under the blue Canadian sky, is already there.

Passing from Saskatchewan, we came into Alberta, the province noted for its mixed farming. Through rolling land, rich in agricultural possibilities, we continued our journey to Edmonton, the gateway to the North.

## CHAPTER II.

### THAT WILD AND WOOLLY WEST.

MORE up to date than England, in some respects, is that wild and woolly Canadian West. Friends at home, particularly those who cherish Imperial ideas, will do well to learn this fact before giving vent to their oft-times erroneous opinions.

We experienced considerable surprise when a motor car met us at the station in Edmonton. Our surprise deepened when passing through the streets, for numerous motors, as smart and up-to-date as any to be seen in England, were conveying well-dressed ladies or members of the sterner sex hither and thither. Where could be the bears and Indians?

Our minds quickly reverted to our trunks, and we hastily gave a mental turn-over to our wardrobe. We blessed the officials who had tried to impress the fact upon us that fashionable attire was quite "the thing" in the West. We had only half believed them.

Our hostess surprised and delighted us. Moderately "hobbled," and with the most charming manners in the world, she gave us a true Western welcome. We wondered why it is that most English ladies cannot acquire the knack of making strangers welcome in

that way, delightful way which is peculiar to the Canadian. The pity of it is that some of these Westerners are actually trying to ape the cold, haughty manners of certain members of the fair sex in England, deeming it "good form." Fortunately their sunny climate will have a large counterbalancing influence in this matter. At least, we hope so.

Our hostess conducted us to rooms which were models of comfort and cleanliness, and gave us the welcome intimation that a hot bath could be had at any time. Later we learnt that in most houses in the bigger towns bathrooms are always to be found. We concluded that it must be only in the wilds that one has the doubtful pleasure of standing "under a tap," or, failing this, fetching water from a river, in order to perform one's ablutions.

We found electric light in every room and corridor, and admired the artistic setting which some of it had received. Electricity is the usual medium employed in Canada for turning night into day. The great abundance of big rivers, waterfalls, etc., makes it the most economical, clean and satisfactory method of producing light.

Next morning, at breakfast, we saw this power put to a further use. Coffee, fragrant and delightful, was boiled at the table in a very few minutes. Our hostess went on to explain that toast "browned to a turn" is made most successfully by electricity. Indeed, some women have got through a big day's washing, with little trouble and labour, by the same means. This power kept the washing-machine going

in great style, and did not prove expensive in the long run.

My dresses had emerged in a somewhat tumbled condition from my trunks, owing to their long journey. With various apologies, I inquired if it would be possible to get an iron sometime during the day. In Canada a woman must be able to dispense with the services of a maid—that is, if she wants to enjoy herself. We were led into the kitchen by our hostess, who, after finding an iron, connected it with the electric light.

“Ever pressed a dress with an electric iron?” she inquired with a quizzical smile. “You have no idea what a comfort they are, especially during the hot weather. A cool room lightens the labour of ironing to an extent one cannot appreciate without experience. Besides that, women are not obliged to do their ironing in a lump, because electricity heats an iron in a few minutes, and retains an even temperature till the current is turned off.”

How thankful we were not to have fallen into the common error of trying to teach Canadians how things are done in England. The slow, careful methods, so dear to the hearts of British housewives, and admirable because of their thoroughness, were clearly unsuited for this new country with its amazing hustle and bustle.

Later we heard of the vacuum cleaner, which is becoming most popular among Canadian housewives. One lady informed us that her carpets were all thoroughly cleaned every week or fortnight by this process, and her house certainly gave evidence of



the machine's capacity. In spring cleaning time this labour-saving apparatus is much appreciated, and enables the woman to curtail this period of disorder and discomfort in a surprising way.

Perhaps the women's wardrobes proved one of the most interesting "shocks" I received. In a confidential feminine way I was invited to inspect their finery—dresses imported from Paris and London, smart, tailor-made "suits" fresh from firms in the East of Canada. The prices were also astonishing. I concluded that *good* clothes in Canada are not much more expensive than in England.

Canada is full of surprises, and we heard with amazement that the street cars are heated with electricity. We wondered where this magnetic force would end.

Telephones, again, are more a necessity than a luxury in the wild and woolly Canadian West. The up-to-date housewife, even of smallish means, does a great deal of her housekeeping by telephone. You would never find a telephone in suburban homes of the same grade in England, but in the West money means time, and time money. Everyone seems to have "got a hustle on." We very nearly did.

Receiving an invitation from an English lady to stay at a farm nearly seventeen miles out of town, we decided to try the simple life. We knew, of course, that electricity was of necessity rarely used for lighting and heating in the country districts. At present it would be too expensive. Some well-to-do farmers have their own dynamos to light their houses,

but these are quite the exception. But a few days after our arrival a gang of men appeared, and began to lay the poles for the telephones, which were being installed in nearly every farmhouse in the district. We caught them in the very act of putting up the last pole at the farmhouse where we were staying.

A few evenings later our hostess suggested music, and before we commenced to make merry with violin and piano "rang up" a friend on a farm a mile away. The latter listened to the whole of the impromptu concert, and through the phone expressed her warm appreciation of the enjoyable evening. To lonely housewives on the Canadian farms the phone, as everyone calls it, has almost a human aspect. The Government, by bringing it within the reach of farmers, are doing more for the women than perhaps they realise. Mothers do not look upon sickness as the same hideous nightmare now they know that in a few minutes they can send a message for help.

## CHAPTER III.

### THE HOMESTEADER.

WHETHER rough or refined, educated or ignorant, the homesteader always impressed us as being at least a man. Out in the West among the elemental forces of Nature, a man partakes, to a certain extent at least, of his surroundings, and becomes strong, forceful and aggressive. This is essential, for success in Canadian farming is a sheer impossibility for the weakling, the shirker or the la-di-da type.

Although the land with its rich virgin soil yields wonderful results in grains, fruit or vegetable growing, stock raising and poultry farming, yet it refuses to render paying returns unless the man who is controlling operations is willing to put his own hand to the plough. This is where so many Englishmen have failed in the past, deeming Canada a country where a man could superintend others, instead of realising that labour is a scarce and expensive commodity, and a farmer if he wishes to make a successful start must dispense whenever possible with outside help. The Canuck, far from admiring the Englishman who is ashamed, unwilling or unable to soil his hands, snorts with contempt. It's the

man minus the wrappings he is anxious to claim as a pal. And yet, deep down in his heart, no one admires the wrappings more than Johnny Canuck, provided they cover something that is akin to his own rugged nature, and are not flaunted before his eyes with irritating superiority.

The Englishman of large, small or no experience will do well to work for a Canadian or an Englishman with Canadian experience before farming on his own. Owing to climatic, agricultural and physical conditions, Western methods are very different to those existing in England; and a knowledge of these saves the new-comer worry, time and expense, and enables him to achieve success instead of dismal failure. Brains and education are a considerable asset, provided the homesteader is willing to turn them to account, for a scientific knowledge of farming is invaluable. It has been estimated that the actual output of every hundred acres has increased a hundred per cent. during the last fifteen years in Ontario, owing to a larger knowledge on the part of the farmer.

The Canadian Government, ever ready to help and encourage the new-comer bent upon agricultural pursuits, not only provides useful information which is culled from reliable sources, but offers every man who has attained his eighteenth year 160 acres of land free. This he may locate in one of the three prairie provinces — Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. On this he has to fulfil certain homestead regulations before receiving the title-deed, the specified time being three years. Much of the

loneliness incidental to homesteading has been removed owing to the railways. The Grand Trunk Pacific, the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern railways have transformed this "dumping ground" and wilderness into a habitable, potent, and desirable land.

And yet, in spite of this, the homesteader still feels lonely, because for him there has been found no helpmeet. He seeks and desires a girl of his own class, but owing to her non-existence in his particular settlement is perforce a celibate. We frequently enjoyed the hospitality of these would-be Benedicts. The comfort, cleanliness and order to be found in a few of their log shacks formed an agreeable contrast to the unpleasant disorder existing in others.

We thought of the cheap cynicism which is so rampant among the masculine element at home concerning the too generous supply of the gentler sex in England. We wondered if something could not be done to even things up. Later, when we heard of the openings in Canada for the right kind of women, we realised how it would be possible for our English sisters to preserve their self-respect, and at the same time have the opportunity of testing the value of propinquity.

Many people in England, like our erstwhile selves, look upon the homesteader as something uncouth and uneducated. In some districts this is undoubtedly the case, while in others the gentlemanly characteristics of the inhabitants are saliently evident. This is but natural, for some of the best

blood in England has through various causes found its way to the West.

What a pity it is that the homesteaders' sisters cannot see the hungry longing of their brothers for feminine society. Those who prefer to act as governesses, or to take up some equally inspiring and delightful work for the noble sum of £20 per annum, in a land where class distinctions are rampant might then be willing to keep house in Canada.

When passing through the various stations dotted over the prairies, we had been struck with the shaggy appearance of some of the settlers, who, however, could not deface the unmistakable marks of an English gentleman. We had noted the erect head, the cultured voice and the softened glance bestowed on a girl of their own class. These men had become rough through the lack of a woman's refining influence, but it was a roughness that could be very quickly rubbed off by a dainty, gentle hand.

Surely the sisters who lack the courage to follow where their brothers have led the way, the sweet-hearts who refuse to join their *fiancés* because of the "hardness" of Canadian life cannot realise the selfishness of their decision. Cannot they understand what a blessing they would be, not only to the brother or husband, but to the whole community. It takes a plucky girl, one must admit, to become the housewife on a Canadian farm, for it generally means the absence of all luxuries and many of the comforts to which we are accustomed in England, besides plenty of work. Where no servant is kept,

and domestics it must be remembered are difficult to procure, the housewife has to bake, wash, cook, make the butter, and do the general work of a house. This is considerably lessened by the mechanical aids to save labour, the compactness of the little houses, and the simple style of living. On the other hand, the absence of all conveniences, which the homesteader cannot afford in his initial struggle, such as taps, sinks, bathrooms, etc., is a drawback.

But then it is an independent life, offering the women of England the opportunity of fulfilling their highest and noblest mission in life, provided they possess the moral and physical courage and strength to realise it. The mothers of Canada are our true empire builders, their children the corner-stone of a structure which defies all stormy political onslaughts, for it is held together by the bonds of love.

English women should avoid settling in isolated districts, unless they can stand the loneliness of the prairie and the absence of all feminine companionship. It is criminal madness for any man to try and induce a highly-strung, sensitive woman to be his sole companion in the wilds, and I would urge this fact upon all at home. Distressing cases have come to light where women have been so situated. The man, with his varied, interesting work out of doors in the exhilarating atmosphere, comes to no harm; but the woman, with her horizon bounded by four walls or the limitless expanse of the prairie, with never a sight or sound of humanity during the long

## THE HOMESTEADER.

hours her husband must be absent, is nearly sure to go under.

This, it must be distinctly understood, applies to the *unsettled* districts only, for there are many, very many farmers who till the soil amongst quite a little colony of others, where a woman could spend a happy, cheerful life.

We had a practical demonstration of this fact when we met an English girl who was visiting her brother for a few months on his homestead. Accustomed to every luxury and comfort at home, and totally inexperienced in domestic work, we were naturally curious to see how she liked her rural life.

"I am becoming quite expert," she informed us. "This morning I scrubbed a floor for the first time in my life, and it is as clean as any charwoman could make it."

"How do you manage about the bread?" we inquired.

An amused smile broke over her face.

"At first my brother had rather a hard time of it, I am afraid, but he was awfully good and never complained. I was a complete novice, and it must be a little trying for men while one acquires experience. Now my bread is something to gladden any man's heart, and I am very proud of it."

A feeling of respect for our hostess pervaded us, for these are the ones who make good.

Another day she invited us to tea at the little log shack, when everything bore evidence of her capability as a housewife. We laughed merrily at



the family "silver" and the expedients adopted to provide egg-cups for all.

Later we made a grand tour through the shack, when our hostess pointed out the various articles of interest. We finished with the photographs, which included two of her sisters in the Court dresses worn at their presentation.

"And do you really think this western life is preferable to our comfortable, easy existence in England?" we asked in conclusion.

"The greatest attraction to me here," said she, "is the truth and sincerity of the people. You know how it is in English society, where everything is so artificial, and no one is able to be herself. Here everything is real, and there is no time to be bored, because there is always plenty to do. When there is time to spare I jump on my pony and explore this wild scenery. Besides, I am not deadened with pleasure here, for when social affairs are arranged we all enter heartily into them because they do not come too often."

We found this girl a delightful companion during the time we spent in that part, and only felt sorry that more girls of her stamp did not make up their minds to bring gladness and happiness and a refining influence into the rural parts of Western Canada.

I have dealt at some length with this phase of Canadian home-life, because after all it is the homesteader who is the backbone of the country. To him the Canadians owe much. He is the man who develops the resources of the Dominion, and sometimes it takes all his courage and indomitable

perseverance to keep things going. We heard of a German homesteader who expressed his intention of returning to the Fatherland. His listener was filled with surprise, for these people are noted for their stolidity and a power of getting on in spite of everything.

Said the German in answer to the Englishman's query as to why he contemplated such a move—

"The first year I hailed out, the second year I froze out, and now I sold out, so this country is good-bye to me."

Certainly an appalling experience, one calculated to daunt the most fearless homesteader, but coming happily to very few.

A Galician, who was digging trenches, for which he received eight shillings a day, had another view of the country. When asked if he would like to go back to the Fatherland, he replied with an emphatic shake of the head, and the following rather unusual statement :—

"No, I stay here. In my country, I dog; here, I man."

A striking tribute to the Dominion, and speaking much for the authorities in the West.

A really touching story, whose authenticity is vouched for, is told of these Galicians. A party of them were taken out to see their homesteads, which they had located at the Land Office. The interpreter pointed to the one hundred and sixty acres belonging to one man, and explained that it was all his. The Galician was bewildered at his good fortune, and could scarcely believe his ears.

"This all mine, my very own?" he said.

"Yes, it is yours all right, given you by the Canadian Government, so that you can build a home on it."

The man's face was transfigured with emotion, when he stooped down and kissed the earth which was to mean so much to him.

An action with a touch of melodrama in it, perhaps, but typifying very plainly the joy of possession inherent in every man.

These Galicians are not backward in getting wives, for in one of their settlements a priest was brought out one day to marry fifteen of their number. With such "partners" the proud husbands looked forward to unbounded prosperity.

The land justifies the enthusiasm bestowed upon it. By travelling through the older settled rural districts one has very tangible proof of the many men who have "made good." Sometimes a brick-veneered house has replaced the former shack when the farmer started on hopes and a stout heart. He could tell you how much his wife or some good sister has helped him in his early struggles.

Other farmers possess comfortable frame houses, which are usually finished with the ubiquitous verandah. During the afternoon the busy housewife takes her sewing there, and receives any callers, who are always heartily welcomed. The call generally develops into a regular visit and an invitation to supper. In the cool of the evening perhaps no one appreciates the verandah to the extent the homesteader does, as with pipe well filled he luxuriates

## THE HOMESTEADER.

in its cool shelter. It marks an advance from the stage of his original crude homesteading just as much as the white napery in lieu of the oilcloth bespeaks a woman's presence at table.

Sky and earth and a glorious sunshine running to waste is something to disturb the economic souls of all Britishers who are cramped through the lack of them, and makes one feel glad that year by year more and more strong, hardy men and brave, plucky women are availing themselves of these.)

## CHAPTER IV.

### HOSPITALITY ON THE PRAIRIE.

"FREELY ye have received, freely give." The Canadian has laid the injunction well to heart. Colonial hospitality has become proverbial all the world over, and to-day the spirit of the old pioneering times is happily not destroyed. Distances, scanty population, and the absence of any rapid method of transition formerly rendered open-hearted hospitality a matter of necessity. The farmer in one of the isolated quarters had a spare room always in readiness for the chance visitor. Everything was offered as a matter of course, payment being accepted only when the stranger could afford it.

To us these tales smacked of legends, but the picturesque touch of romance they lent to the crude pioneering conditions of the old days made us anxious to imagine them as facts. Although Canada's population represents over fifty countries and nationalities, and is ordered and controlled by men of varied tastes and abilities, yet the old primitive instinct and custom to stretch out a helping hand to those in need still permeates the whole Dominion.



*A farmhouse in Western Canada.*



*A Picnic Party in Western Canada.*

## HOSPITALITY ON THE PRAIRIE.

Of this we had striking proof when staying at an Albertan farm, whose owner had spent twenty years in the West, and was a strange mixture of the old and the new. His experiences had developed his fighting instincts, and we could well imagine him, with all the odds against him, waging a battle royal and in the end victorious. His large, prosperous farm bore indisputable testimony to his success.

One day we were all sitting down to partake of the wholesome, generous fare provided, for dinner was just served, when our host happened to espy a stranger coming up the path. Conjectures as to the man's identity were varied, for many wanderers of all sorts and conditions had been previously viewed from this same window. Our host put him down as a student endeavouring to earn the fees necessary for his next course at college by travelling for some book firm. This expedient has been adopted by men and women requiring funds to enable them to secure the advantages of a higher education than the Canadian public schools offer free of charge. Many a man and woman occupying a high position in the Dominion to-day has emerged from obscure surroundings by dint of dogged determination, industry and adaptability. These traits are of more value in Canada than connections or capital, for without them one is doomed to failure.

When the mysterious stranger reached the house, it was our host, and not the maid, who went to the door, and in the most unconventional manner



## AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN THE CANADIAN WEST.

brought the stranger right in to dinner. The easy grace with which the offer of hospitality was made and accepted was a delight to us, for our host was English, and his guest Canadian. Misinformed people had told us that Britishers did not understand what real hospitality meant.

The visitor turned out to be a medical man, who was feeling the pulse of the district before coming to a decision as to the advisability of practising in the neighbourhood. The presence of a city not twenty miles away, and "running over" with doctors, necessitated caution on his part. The inhabitants to a man promised to support him, but in the healthy, invigorating climate of the sunny Province of Alberta illness is not too prevalent, and fancy ailments are impossible, owing to the busy, useful lives which are led. All this the doctor, being a Canadian, thoroughly understood.

Later tea was served, and the erstwhile stranger who had managed to make friends with the whole household, and had captured the heart of our hostess by his tactful manner with her children, seemed like an old friend. With laughing good nature he allowed us to photograph him on the charming veranda which had often served as a pleasant retreat for many a tired Tim.

No weary Willie trudged to the railway station that evening, for our host put the finishing touch to his spontaneous hospitality by driving his chance visitor to the train. With promises of a warm welcome should he return, the family watched the buggy disappear from view.

## HOSPITALITY ON THE PRAIRIE.

Such incidents of warm-hearted generosity are by no means unique, even in our experience. The recipients of the bounteous hand prove at times not at all to the liking of the donors, but personal feeling is not allowed to interfere when exigent humanity knocks at the door. We never saw it turn away unaided.

## CHAPTER V.

### RURAL SOCIAL LIFE.

THE necessity of relaxation is one of the homesteader's most cherished convictions. Their wives encourage this belief in warm-hearted and generous fashion, for the deadly monotony of work unrelieved by any social diversion is apt to break the bravest spirit, and upon the women would the shadow fall the heaviest.

It pleased us to see how the men endeavoured to lighten or remove any of the hard work incidental to social recreations, in order that the women should not be overtaxed. These men, with their chivalrous instincts, exercised a healthy influence upon those who through ignorance or coarseness imagined that women were put into this world in order to wait upon them. It was with feelings of real amusement that we heard of the amazed dismay which was depicted on these ignorant men's faces when they learnt that the "soft jobs" were reserved for the gentler sex. Our informer was Scotch, prickly as his national emblem, and judging by his personality, able to reduce all offenders to a proper state of mind. The Scot, whether Canadian or fresh from the land of the heather, always remains a Scotchman. Instead of the country moulding him, he seems to mould the

country, and has left his mark upon its history. We decided to eat plenty of porridge.

The Scotchman, however, is not the only type of humanity to be found in the West, for many nationalities have wandered thither. The same variety exists in the social life in which they participate. There are the more elaborate entertainments, given usually by the women who hail from England's shores, which throw into relief the simple social distractions of those who have had neither the time nor the opportunity to acquire the finishing touches. This strange mixture attracted us. We experienced a delightful feeling of uncertainty as to what would turn up next. One unfailing feature counter-balanced any crudities of the rural social life, for the heartiest of welcomes awaited every visitor upon all occasions that social amenities of any description were in operation. This welcome, through its elemental sincerity, assumed at times almost a quaint aspect, and affected us in the same manner that the fresh, untouched vastness of the country, which probably was partly responsible for its existence, did.

As summer undoubtedly is the homesteader's busy season, it was with feelings of surprise that we watched them, when work had begun to pall, leave their crops and farms to take care of themselves, and with the energy of a new interest, arrange a farmers' picnic. Any class distinctions which might exist, even in rural Canada, were all swept aside, and the whole settlement received an invitation as a matter of course.



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By some shady lake these holiday-makers were able to spend a happy, restful time in true picnic fashion, and returned to work with renewed strength and ambition.

We were fortunate enough to receive an invitation to the Farmers' United Association Picnic, which is held annually in the settlement in which we were staying. The feminine portion of the district supplied the bread, cakes, pastry, etc., for the tea; and the masculine element provided almost unlimited quantities of ices, iced lemonade, etc., which were dispensed from a pretty booth erected for the occasion.

The picnic catered for something more than mere hunger and thirst, for speeches were made from a farmer's wagon to an attentive, appreciative audience. The orators included visitors from town, but the local clergy owned the best stories. Sometimes the Premier of the Province, accompanied by members of his Cabinet, attends these picnics. These visitors give advice upon agricultural matters, resulting from their knowledge and experience. At this particular picnic the Premier was absent, but a Cabinet Minister gave his hearers the benefit of his ideas. In spite of amusing, clever, and stupid interruptions, he carried his speech to a triumphant conclusion, and was succeeded by a man who possessed more gestures than sense, but who managed to create roars of laughter amongst his audience. An inconvenient but sensible brother brought his oratorical efforts to an untimely end. We had hoped to carry away a lasting impression of him in the form of a photograph,

but his endless movements precluded any such possibility in spite of our strenuous efforts. Our drawing proclivities having been nipped in the bud by unforeseen circumstances, we have been obliged to leave him to our reader's imagination.

The speeches were succeeded by sports, which included several interesting competitions. One of these, for girls only, caused much excitement. The girls had to harness their horses, drive the buggies round an obstacle course, and then unharness their horses. The victorious competitor was loudly applauded by the spectators for her quickness and clever driving, which she well deserved. It had seemed incredible to us that any horse could be harnessed in less than no time, till we examined the animals at close quarters. Then we saw that Canadian harness is especially adapted for rapid manipulation.

Other sports followed, showing originality of thought, and the married couples race, with its spirited laughing finish, found us all ready for tea. This was spread out on long wooden tables under shady trees, where the guests did justice to the liberal fare provided.

The cool evening air, always so welcome after the day's boiling sun, and one of the charms of Alberta, warned the holiday-makers that it was time to pack up, and a scene of excitement ensued while everything was put into wagons or buggies.

After somewhat protracted farewells, the revellers separated, and we learnt of their intention to repeat the day's programme in the near future.

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These summer picnics are interspersed with informal invitations to tea or supper, but during the winter, which is the farmer's off season, various social functions take place. Where the community is sufficiently musical concerts are given. We were, unfortunately, unable to attend any of these, but on such occasions the length of the programme is surprising. Entertainments of this character are not over plentiful, and the people believe in getting good value for their money. What a great day this is for some of the mothers, when the clever daughter, who has been taking lessons in town, gives some truly wonderful performance on the piano or American organ. How the mother swells with pride when the audience show their appreciation as only a rural audience can. Perhaps her pleasure is a little overshadowed when some other mother's daughter, who has also been having music lessons in town, gives a violin solo. The girl's evident nervousness, while detracting from her bowing, in no way spoils the pleasure of her hearers, who are there to enjoy and encourage the performance, and not to criticise.

As item after item goes on, the hard wooden benches become a stern reality, and the listener who has been accustomed to hear the world's best music finds his or her native politeness taxed to the uttermost in order to remain till the finish. To leave the room during the performance would be looked upon as a mark of great rudeness, and the culprit would soon get an unenviable reputation.

Occasionally, really good musicians take part at

these concerts, and when they show discrimination in selecting their pieces, are accorded a reception which is both flattering and encouraging. The performance is certainly not looked upon as a suitable accompaniment for conversation.

The concerts, by their length and variety, bear a strong resemblance to the dances, which are held in the schoolhouse or the farms. Every available girl is invited. Perhaps some of the fair sex possess no evening dress, but this will prove no barrier to their acceptance of the invitation, or to their enjoyment of the evening. One girl appeared at a dance, which was held at a farm, in a thick red jersey surmounted by a lace collar, and a dark skirt completed her costume. She danced all the evening, in spite of her thick attire.

Wallflowers are unknown at these dances, for femininity is too precious to be wasted, and a girl is sometimes obliged to have two or three partners for one dance.

The drive home through the cool, keen air is not the least enjoyable part of the evening, as the cutter glides lightly over the snow.

The former bachelors' subscription dance, which was held annually in the schoolhouse, must have been the event of the season in this particular settlement. Invitations were eagerly sought after by members of the fair sex living in town, and judging from the various descriptions we received, the affair must have reflected great credit on its originators. Through various causes it had fallen into disuse.



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Widely as these social gatherings differ, there is one ever-present feature—the refreshment basket. The new settler is at first overwhelmed with the Canadian's hospitality, but this is a relic of the pioneering days, when houses were few and far between.

In those days, when a housewife decided to entertain, the guests were gathered from houses many miles away, but the invitation was never refused on account of the long distance. After sleighing through the cold air, the guests were regaled with a good square meal. The housewife fully recognised the necessity of this. It formed an important part of the evening's entertainment, and meant a great deal to the bachelors, who seldom had the opportunity of eating something cooked by a woman.

While the need for this old custom in most cases no longer exists, on account of the growth of the communities, the housewives are loath to abandon it, for hospitality is part and parcel of their natures. This warm-hearted generosity radiates over all Canadian rural gatherings.

## CHAPTER VI.

### CAMP LIFE IN THE BUSH.

THE bush, with its mysterious attraction, its speaking silence, and its wild, uncivilised freedom, was a closed book to us. We longed to penetrate its secrets, and to share, if only in a small degree, something of its delights, which the men who had wandered far into the wilds expatiated upon at such length. My sex precluded any great distances into uncivilised places, but sixty miles to the north-west of us lay the beautiful Wabamum Lake, which was considered an ideal camping spot for those who wished to remain on the fringe of civilisation.

After a brief consultation our decision was taken, and hard on the heels of it followed the packing. Clothes, books, fishing tackle, pots and pans—all delightfully mixed together—were supplemented by two tents, the camp stove and a couple of dogs.

The first part of the journey we accomplished by train. Upon our arrival at a hamlet, which possessed the usual Western hotel accommodation, we found a modernised relic of the ancient stage coach awaiting us, which quickly received its complement of passengers. The driver, having stowed himself away into the small space allotted for his comfortable figure, gathered up his "lines" and started us on

our way in a manner altogether unexpected, for we woefully failed to keep our seats, although they were paid for, but determined with British doggedness to hang on to our rights. We hung all right until the art of balancing was acquired. Passing through some beautiful scenery, and stopping only for refreshment by the way, we reached the lake post office and miscellaneous store as the evening shadows were falling. Jolted, bumped, bruised and weary, we mentally kicked ourselves for leaving the train, which would have brought us in luxurious ease and minus the bumps.

After purchasing provisions at the store, we drove to a near-by farm to put up for the night.

The next day the remainder of our journey led us over virgin soil and through virgin forest, where the fine heavy team of horses had to serve as pioneers of the road, and nobly they responded to the exigency. The elemental grandeur of the scene fascinated us till we reached the concluding picture—a gulch. This was a veritable 'tit-bit of Nature's malicious handiwork; which to us appeared absolutely impracticable for transit; but the driver held other views, and we watched his manipulation of the team with amazed curiosity, remembering with pride his English nationality. Leaving the gulch, we came into more open country, and presently the blue waters of Wabamum Lake, stretching thirteen miles in one direction and sometimes eight in another, could be discerned amongst the trees which towered up thickly on its shores. Wabamum, the English translation of which is Mirror, has been well named

by the Indians, for the lake mirrors every passing object. The quiet beauty of the scene laid its magic spell upon us, and we drank in the exhilarating atmosphere with deep-drawn breaths, thanking God in our hearts for His sublime creation.

Our teamster, after dumping our belongings amongst the bush, started off on a tour of inspection, for neighbours were not far off. Shortly after he had gone and temporarily left us to our own devices a violent thunderstorm, which was as unexpected as it was unwelcome, broke over us. My brother hastily seized the axe, and with praiseworthy vigour started to chop poles and cross-trees for the tents, while I defended the provisions from the onslaught of the storm with my skirt, which fortunately on this occasion was not of the sheath or hobble variety.

With the same surprising suddenness which had characterised its commencement the storm ceased, and with its cessation our jehu appeared, accompanied by one of our neighbours. The latter, in the warm, free and easy way the Westerners have, carried us off there and then to his shack, where his wife invited us to tea.

Our English hostess had the unique honour of being the first white woman settler at the lake. Well born, highly educated and accomplished, she had nobly responded to the demands of pioneering by sheer adaptability. Unmistakable evidences of the struggle were discernable—the face, tanned to a deep brown, the somewhat too careless dress, the brisk, alert, capacity which every movement betrayed, and withal a charming "open-air" unconventionality

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which is the peculiar cult of the wilds. With a fire and oratory worthy of a larger audience, she gave us a glowing picture of the future of Wabamum Lake.

We learnt that in the near future the appellation of "the wilds" would become obsolete in this district, for already plots of land bordering the lake had been bought by Edmontonians. Summer shacks would spring up as if by magic for those to whom living under canvas did not appeal, while the blue waters of the lake, which could look angry enough at times, would be dotted with pleasure crafts of various sizes. Not only would the pleasure-seeker, camper-out and sportsman haunt the vicinity, but the agriculturist, following the example of the sturdy pioneers already there, would hasten to pitch his camp in this delectable spot. He, even more than his predecessors, would learn what splendid results are the reward of his toil, for a ready market awaits his produce. Our hostess's sure and certain hope rested upon a foundation which was certainly not built upon the sands. Steel was its basis, for owing to railway developments Wabamum has been brought into direct touch with Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, and rapid growth must of necessity follow.

After experiencing to the full the Western lavish hospitality we departed to pitch our camp, and received a very hearty welcome from the mosquitoes. These pests revel in the bush after a shower, and until the ground was cleared it was impossible to make a smudge (smoky fire) and smoke them out. The men hastily lit their pipes, in the hope that the

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fumes of tobacco would keep these veritable imps of Satan off, and indulged in language strong and forceful, interspersing it with vicious grabs in the air. This verbal safety-valve apparently helped them to endure the bites of their tormentors, judging by their subsequent good temper.

Before long our camp was pitched, a fire lighted, and soon afterwards we parted for the night. The mosquitoes had vanished in smoke.

With a dog apiece we dived into our tents, and almost immediately were oblivious to our surroundings. Oblivion was not long mine, however, for with a start I awoke to discover that my camp cot was rising and falling in a somewhat alarming manner. Knowing that our camping ground did not lie in the earthquake belt, I at once searched for the disturbing element, and being a woman, naturally looked under the bed, where I found my collie busy scratching himself. He showed his appreciation of my presence by vigorously wagging his tail, but refused to budge an inch. It was too cold to indulge in verbal arguments, so drastic measures were essential and proved effective. After guarding against further disturbance, I resumed my couch, and was soon in the land of nod.

Only those who have camped can know the exhilarating effect of sleeping under canvas, and the charm of alfresco meals under the Canadian blue sky. With the commencement of a new day in such surroundings we were like school children turned loose as we searched for cooking utensils and provisions. The fresh air gave a keen edge to our

appetites, making us consume porridge and bacon in prodigious quantities, and precluded any criticisms which our table appointments might have called forth had we cared to indulge in fastidiousness. The view from our camp site was grand, for the land sloped up from the lake, which looked like a silver sea, while leafy trees gave us their cool shelter. The dust and turmoil of the city, with the gossip and scandal of the people, seemed like phantoms of the past. We felt that we were indeed in Nature's cathedral, but far removed from all ecclesiastical dissensions.

In spite of this, we decided on the following Sunday to test the so-called spiritual benefits of the service which was held once a week at a farm not far distant. Our decision was purely the result of a wish for new experiences, and in this we were not disappointed. As we entered the log kitchen, which had been made to look as ecclesiastical as possible, we suddenly regretted our impulsive attendance. Crudity, devoid of any picturesque touch, stared us in the face, and we looked forward to a tiresome, boring hour. But as the old familiar service commenced, a deep hush, which deepened in intensity as the clergyman continued, fell on the congregation. A grand solemnity, such as we had never experienced in any church, filled our hearts, and made us suddenly realise that here indeed we were face to face with our Maker.

The spell was broken just before the sermon by an amusing interruption, caused by the lady of the house, who after lighting a spirit lamp put on the



*Wabamun Lake.*





*A Frequent Visitor in Camp—a Black Bear.*

kettle. This in no way disconcerted the parson, who, to the musical accompaniment of the jubilant kettle, laid before us plain, broad truths, which rivalled our surroundings in their simplicity.

At the close of the service tea and cake were dispensed to the congregation, and no one appreciated this thoughtful act more than the preacher, who, after hastily swallowing the refreshing beverage, rode off for his next service. Before taking our departure we fell into conversation with our hostess, and learnt that she had come to the West on a six months' visit to her brother. Cupid, thankful at last to find a feminine target, had cast his darts with sure and certain aim. This we learnt from the brother.

Disturbing elements in the "Wild West" are not confined to Cupid, however. A few nights later my slumbers were rudely interrupted by a most insistent and determined push on my back. I sat up, bristling with indignation, after rescuing the bedclothes and myself from an ignominious contact with the floor. Then a revulsion of feeling permeated my being, for, looking up, I espied the shadow of a black bear reflected on the canvas with a horrible clearness, due, no doubt, to the brilliant moonlight. In fascinated wonderment I gazed at the shadow; and the bear, standing on its hind legs, eyed me in calm contemplation. We were both thinking out the situation, and the canvas between us was a wonderful aid to my reflections. It made Mr. Bruin appear so far although so near, and forced home the pleasant conclusion that instead of my fate hanging by a thread, innumerable threads, woven into stout canvas, protected me for

the few moments necessary to get my woman's wits working.

Like a flash the inspiration came. Gun, axe or a weapon of any description was denied me, but a woman's potent weapon was at hand, strong and in excellent condition. It was even more effective than I had anticipated, for after giving full play to my vocal organs in the hope of attracting my brother's attention, the animal disappeared with lightning rapidity into the bush.

What a blessing my memory had not played me false. My inspiration had been due to a dim recollection of natural history learnt in my childish days, and I mentally blessed the teacher who had taught us that bears dislike the human voice.

The bear disturbed us no more that night, and it was not until the morning that we learnt the real cause of his midnight prowling. The knowledge did not tend to make us have a warmer regard for him, for we discovered that the whole of our big piece of bacon, which is almost an essential of camp life, had gone. The bear had scorned to rob us of the paper, which lay just outside my tent, but had had the audacity to enter while I slept, and, anxious to gratify his favourite taste, had carried off what was really the backbone of our provisions. My dog's silence throughout the whole occurrence astonished us.

We learnt afterwards from our friendly neighbour that various bachelors in the vicinity, having their provisions scattered about on the floor of their tents, had received similar visitations. With guns they had guarded their "larder" from further molestations,

deeming capital punishment the most effective method of curing these thieves. We decided to follow their example, and having received the loan of a gun, with the assurance that these black bears are usually quite harmless unless attacked,\* we prepared for our midnight vigil.

It was a weird experience, but one that we would not have missed. In the silent bush every sound seemed greatly magnified—the distant howl of the coyotes,\* the flutter of the birds, or the scurrying of some animal to its hole. The loud swish of the water on the shore, with its even, rhythmical motion seemed through its mournful cadences to heighten the feeling of stillness in the atmosphere. Hour after hour went by while we waited in that tense, noisy stillness for a heavy footfall, but no bear appeared. Chilled and tired, we decided towards dawn to end our unsuccessful watch, and hastened to get between the blankets. Sleep, long and refreshing next visited us, and it was at a very late hour we breakfasted in the morning.

My brother seemed exempt from nocturnal interruptions of any description, but the following night, much to my surprise and disgust, the bear paid me another visit, and this time the collie shared my resentment at his near proximity. With the loss of our bacon still rankling in my mind, I determined to prevent further inroads upon the larder by immediate action. Accordingly, after letting out a regular Indian's yell, and gathering courage from the formidable axe in my hand, I rushed out, arrayed

\* Prairie wolf.

in the scantiest of night attire, leaving the dog to guard the tent.

With hardly a glance backward, the bear started to put his best foot foremost, gathering impetus as he went; and this quickened pace was encouraged by the further exhibition he received from time to time of my vocal energy, which in that clear atmosphere at dead of night did credit to Nature's acoustical properties. My brother, armed with a rifle, and wondering if pandemonium were let loose, quickly joined in the chase, when suddenly the bear bounded into the thicker part of the bush. Pursuit was impracticable, and we decided to retrace our steps, for now that the animal was thoroughly frightened, it was scarcely likely that he would again gratify his depredatory tastes at our expense. This surmise proved correct, for never again did he haunt the precincts of our camping ground, although a warm welcome awaited him.

Some days later another camper, who was enjoying a morning's ride a few miles farther down the lake, met the bear face to face. The animal was in an exceedingly bad humour, due, perhaps, to indigestion and fright, and did not hesitate to "show his teeth." As the rider carried no weapon of any description, he deemed that discretion would be the better part of valour in the circumstances, and hastened to leave the bear at a safe distance. Espying a camp, he headed his horse in our direction, and regaled us with a description of his recent encounter. After this we always slept with a rifle by our side.

Bears are not the only form of sport to be found

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at Wabamum, for white and jack fish disport themselves in the lake. The former, which are shipped to Edmonton in large quantities, make a lucrative calling for some of the homesteaders without causing too heavy a demand upon their time and muscles. Fishing is not reserved exclusively for commercial purposes, and we repeatedly entered the angler's paradise by catching jack fish with spoon bait. Rowing our punt near the shore, a jerk on the line would soon reward our efforts, and great was the excitement while the splashing victim was drawn in. Later we roasted these toothsome catches on the camp fire for our canine companions, who showed their appreciation of our efforts by devouring all the fish we could secure.

When tired of fishing, bathing proved an attractive pastime, for Wabamum with its beautiful sandy beach and its clear water warmed to an agreeable temperature by the afternoon sun, was too inviting for mere observance. Sometimes a few of the settlers of the district joined us at the bathing hour, when various forms of aquatic sports, as amusing as they were exciting, were arranged. A camp tea of necessity followed, at which dozens of potato cakes, all hot and piping, were quickly disposed of. These were followed by quantities of wild strawberries, of a very sweet flavour, which grow in profusion near the lake, and cost only the trouble of picking.

In the evenings our camp fires added to the realism of our life in the bush, and many were the yarns told. Whether based upon fact or fiction, they always met

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with an encouraging reception, and served the purpose for which they were created.

News of the outside world reached us weekly when we fetched the mail from the lake post office. Every Monday, at seven o'clock in the morning, one of the bachelors, who owned a boat considerably larger than the punt at our disposal, called at our miniature pier. With sails spread, our temporary home quickly disappeared from view, and we gave ourselves up to the delight of skimming over the waters where Indians had at one time paddled. On one occasion, owing to the turbulence of the waves, it was necessary to sail through the reeds close to the shore upon which the disturbed water angrily tossed itself. Dark and threatening appeared the elements above and beneath, and Wabamum could no longer be recognised as the harmless lake of mirrors; but our trim craft steadily followed the hand that guided her till we reached the post office in safety. Owing to our racing speed, which the tempest had necessitated, we were earlier than usual.

On the return journey the storm increased with such violence that, although we still hugged the shore, our craft was in danger of being swamped. As soon as possible the helmsman steered straight for land, where we decided to stay until the wind abated. Our host, whose shack was not far distant, invited us to tea, and gratefully we accepted his invitation to test his home-made bread and butter, of which he was justly proud.

Later we were able to continue our sail in safety,

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for the angry waters of the lake had assumed a peaceful, innocent appearance with the same suddenness that a woman's mood changes.

After enjoying for a few weeks such pleasures as the simple life affords, we decided to "hit the trail" to Edmonton, for even a camping trip cannot last for ever. This page of Nature's book had been full of a new interest, which stimulated our imagination, restored our lost energy, and gave life a new meaning. Our hearts bubbled over with gaiety and the pure animal joy of living.

Let the wandering spirits of England test the delights of Canadian camp life, in the lone bush or by the snow-clad mountains, and learn the secrets of Nature at her best. To those with the understanding heart she will unfold many beauties.



## CHAPTER VII.

### OUR EXPERIENCES IN EDMONTON.

TRUE Canadian hospitality, spontaneous and abundant, was showered upon us in Edmonton. We were quickly launched upon the troublesome waves of society, and then discovered that the crude, primitive conditions we had anticipated were conspicuous by their absence. These were applicable to the days which the old-timers remembered, when squaws and half-breeds were nearly the only element which existed of the gentler sex to disturb the mental quietude of man. Such women were naturally devoid of culture and education, and devoted their time and their strength, their brains and their beauty to their lords. Their attitude, both mental and physical, was one of abject subjection, and brought them a contented happiness, for women's rights, which have become embodied in the Suffrage movement, were unheard and undreamt of in the quiet seclusion of their primitive surroundings, where a woman was born to serve, and not to demand. The advent of the white woman, while bringing sweeping changes, has not altered or improved to any marked extent the lot of the Indian at the present time, as she pursues her humble and humdrum existence from day to day. The big cities and towns, with their

up-to-date civilisation, know her not as a citizen; but at times she is still to be seen with her dirty blanket and mocassins, coarse black hair, high cheek bones, and a clay pipe in her mouth, taking her place humbly and patiently at the back of her lord and master. He, even now, will cause a mild sensation by appearing sometimes in the streets astride a pinto pony, with painted cheeks and ribbons in his long black plait, but possessing a beauty and dignity all his own. This phase of the old picturesque life in the West, which is rapidly dying out, throws into marked relief the lot of the woman in Canada to-day.

As the pioneer white woman gradually appeared on the western horizon, an undercurrent of feeling permeated the masculine section of the white race, who, with their British ideals, traditions and customs, felt the necessity of a mental readjustment. Instead of the Indian's patient homage, they encountered an interesting personality in their little white girl, who demanded a fair share of their time and attention, and gave in return much helpful advice and encouragement while she performed her duties as wife and mother. Her dainty habits and appearance unconsciously checked his former deterioration, and spruced him up mentally and physically. Unfortunately, in many cases the wife, through her inability to secure good "help" for the house or the children, lost much of her former refinement, and became slovenly in appearance and careless in her home. The crude, primitive conditions of the old pioneering days, which demanded courage,

dogged determination and grim earnestness from the men and their plucky partners, rubbed off the veneer very quickly.

These brave women laid the stepping-stones for the easier transit of the femininity which succeeded them. Cosmopolitan it was, consisting of English, Scotch, Irish and various nationalities existing in Europe. Their offspring developed into hardy men and women, who were eminently suited to the needs and conditions of the country, which at that time was not ripe for higher education or too much refinement. The lack of this was more than compensated for by the genial, friendly spirit which pervaded the communities, when the women with their very busy lives had no time to acquire the art of snubbing, and rendering unhappy their less fortunate sisters in a determination to exclude them from their social clique.

Edmonton, with her progressive spirit in educational, religious and social matters, has already advanced a long, long way from the old simple, happy life, and to-day prides herself upon her dinners, musicales, dances, pink teas and receptions.

A reference to receptions always brings to my mind an incident which occurred shortly after our arrival in town. Mrs. Blank was speaking of the folly of Mrs. Upstart holding a reception, as she considered that her circumstances and position prohibited it. As we were anxious to learn Western ways, and eager to avoid any snobbery, we listened in cautious silence. This had a disconcerting effect upon Mrs. Blank.

"Well," said the good lady in conclusion, as if summing up the whole case, "I always know when Mrs. Upstart is going to hold a reception, for on that day I see her go into the yard to clean her teeth. What do you think of that?"

"Really," I demurred, "it seems to me that we ought to encourage her to give all the receptions she can, and so advance the cause of hygiene."

Mrs. Blank, after trying to maintain an air of offended dignity, gave way to a hearty fit of laughter, which proved infinitely more attractive than her previous sarcastic remarks concerning her neighbour's receptions.

Reception days are in many ways very similar to those in England. The hostess will probably have done her own work in the morning, but in such a rapid, methodical manner, that by the afternoon she will have removed all traces of toil, and dressed in the prevailing fashion or even some "creation" imported from Paris, she will be able to await her guests in the drawing-room. And how they flock in—some shy, some noisy, some with an *empressé* manner, some with the magic charm of a sweet personality, some bulging with importance, and some bearing the indelible stamp of an old-world culture.

Tea and cake is most daintily served, the guests being attended to by one of the daughters, or even, perhaps, a neat-handed "Phyllis," but failing these, the hostess manages in a wonderful manner to look after the comfort of her visitors. How jolly and chatty the whole concern is. It might sometimes

present idiosyncrasies and incongruities to the mind of anyone from an old-world civilisation, but what matter such trifles when at the back of it all is a real warmth in the heart of the hostess, and a true pride and pleasure in her reception days.

Sometimes receptions take on a more formal tone, when invitations are sent out to as many as a hundred and fifty people. The services of a caterer are usually brought into requisition for the salads, ices and various dainties deemed requisite for the occasion. Floral decorations of a costly description shed their sweet fragrance through the rooms, while soft music in some distant part of the house stimulates the conversation. On these formal occasions the charm of colonial life is gone. The guests in the most artificial up-to-date fashion talk sweet nothings to each other, and the tired, if not worried, hostess, in her costly draperies, seems often the embodiment of nervous anxiety lest her "affair," which had entailed lots of hard work, should not be a success.

I felt sorry to see these old-world entertainments creeping into the Western life, for they were the cause of much heart-burning and bitterness of spirit. Mrs. Goodheart had been very anxious to show hospitality to her friends, but now, after these elaborate entertainments, she gave up all idea of it, for "if her reception did not come up to the others it would cast a slur upon her husband!" Her purse was not long enough, neither, I am sure, were the purses of others who indulged in these spasmodic efforts. And how the women talk! After partaking of their hostess's hospitality how seldom the majority

of them seem to have really enjoyed themselves! What a lot of jolly little parties became extinct. Surely there is more hospitality shown by asking a small party of congenial people to meet each other than in a miscellaneous collection thrown together, when not all the music, flowers, dainties, and dresses will give true pleasure.

Very different to these formal receptions were some "Bohemian teas" we attended, when not more than sixteen carefully-selected guests were invited at a time. The cakes and tea were appreciated quite as much as elaborate, expensive refreshments. Music was provided by the hostess, and we noted that directly it commenced all conversation ceased. It was a delightful surprise. We expected some two-step or a jolly ragtime, but it was Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" which held us entranced, and the tense, still silence was surely a worthy tribute to the great composer.

And what did these Bohemian teas mean? Very little, and yet so much. They meant that all who were invited were really wanted, that no gossip or scandal was allowed, that the true, big, noble spirit of Bohemia was to pervade the gathering.

Something akin to these were the entertainments given by a lady, who, though possessed of great wealth, yet retained a childlike spirit. Her acquaintance was eagerly sought after, not only on account of her natural charm, originality and position, but because her "affairs" were utterly devoid of formality or stodginess.

Canada owes a tribute to women who not only

dare to be themselves and to follow out their own ideas, but keep the charming old colonial spirit alive.

Such women were no leaders of the Bridge parties which became quite the rage in the afternoons, and in some cases unfortunately meant the neglect of the home. Children were left to run wild while Bridge filled the mothers' minds to the extinction of home duties. The clergy endeavoured to check this consuming fever in order to prevent the contagion from spreading, and their efforts met with partial success.

Luncheons and dinner parties are quite the order of the day, not only in Edmonton, but in all the bigger western towns. The former bring a lot of pleasure to those who can spare the time, for they make a pleasant little break in the day, and a dainty meal, well served up, is much enjoyed by women who usually have all or nearly all of their own cooking to do. These luncheon and dinner parties sometimes have the added charm of really witty conversation, when the ball is kept rolling most dexterously by the more brilliant guests, the result of a clever, tactful hostess understanding the art of drawing people out.

Whereas in Britain one would see the ladies attired in conventional morning costume at luncheon, in Edmonton we beheld many startling toilettes on the pretty figures of those who were making their *début* into up-to-date society, and considered the "plain folks" hopelessly dowdy. The latter regarded the former's chiffons, laces and

## OUR EXPERIENCES IN EDMONTON.

ribbons with amazed interest, and derived as much pleasure from the inspection as their over-dressed fellow-guests enjoyed their fancied superiority.

[ These little peculiarities will, of course, adjust themselves in time, for the Westerner is very quick to "catch on."

Receptions do not occupy the same place in a Canadian's heart as dances, which are perhaps the most popular form of entertainment in the Dominion. Dances always prove successful, whether the more formal subscription ball is given or a small house dance. Some of the big balls are really worthy of the pride that Canadians bestow on them. A large hall is engaged for the occasion, and is transformed into a bit of fairyland by picturesque and tasteful decorations. Supper tables, which groan under the weight of good things, and a floor, which is nearly perfect from the dancer's point of view, not to mention the competent orchestra on a raised dais, which is almost invisible amongst the wealth of Canadian horticulture, and sets the dancer's feet "on the go" with its inspiring music, complete the arrangements. However, the majority of people generally derive more pleasure from the house dances, and I remember spending a very pleasant evening in Edmonton at a friend's house.

The entertainment and comfort of the guests had been considered in every possible way. In the pretty hall card tables were arranged in cosy nooks for those who did not "tip the light fantastic toe," at which "Five Hundred," a popular Canadian card game, was in vogue and created much merriment amongst



the guests. The dancers floated about the drawing-room to the accompaniment of music supplied by the guests, who were most good natured in taking turns at the piano. Later the songsters burst forth into singing, choosing popular melodies and ditties, and the choruses, which the remaining guests appropriated, swelled out in great volume, so that we wondered if the Canadian climate was responsible for their lung power. When the vocal chords had been exercised to their uttermost capacity, a "leap-year" dance was called, and it was very amusing to watch the self-conscious looks of the girls as they sought out partners. Some adopted a wise, if unsatisfactory expedient by asking a man in whom they had not the slightest interest, but others preferred to go partnerless. The men, however, quickly rectified this, for in Canada a man goes to a dance to dance.

The "leap year" was followed by supper, when the men, according to Canadian custom, succeeded in laying the lacy cloths on the little tables at correct angles, and managed to carry in their hostess's best china without bringing her to the verge of a nervous breakdown. We liked these Western men with their free, easy manners and considerate attention.

We learnt with sorrow that "surprise parties," which are typically colonial and most delightful, are becoming obsolete. At a surprise party the guests choose their own hostess, and the refreshments are provided by different members of the party, who are bound to absolute secrecy.

We heard of a lady who certainly was thoroughly

surprised one evening. Upon opening her door, some men entered with a piano which had been hired for the occasion, and were immediately followed by a host of friends with a musician in their midst. A great hubbub prevailed while the surprise party put everything in readiness without any assistance from the surprised hostess, who, according to the prevailing custom on these occasions, was positively forbidden to assist in any way, either at the commencement or conclusion of the party. The guests at such times pride themselves upon leaving no traces of their visit, and this particular evening was no exception to this rule. The lady thoroughly enjoyed the dance, and not being the happy possessor of a piano, was touched at the thoughtful generosity of her friends. Her appreciation of Canadian kindness we could well understand, as we were experiencing fresh instances of it from day to day while we enjoyed the social distractions of the place.

On several occasions we were invited to join a theatre party, and derived much amusement from the plays, which were given to crowded houses. Stock companies from different parts of the Dominion visit the prairie towns where the population warrants it. As may be imagined, some of the companies leave much to be desired as regards histrionic talent, but others well deserve the eulogies they receive from the local papers.

One night, when we were watching *Richelieu*, which was being presented in a fairly capable manner, a most amusing incident occurred. The players had arrived at the part where the king appears, and

while the courtiers were standing with bowed heads His Majesty advanced from the rear of the stage with true kingly dignity. But, alas, for the property-man's work! While crossing a stage bridge, the unhappy monarch suddenly disappeared amidst a loud noise of cracking wood, and presented to our admiring eyes a very thin pair of royal legs.

He extricated himself with difficulty, but in spite of the contretemps managed to join his court. The courtiers made a gallant effort to preserve their gravity, but the humorous aspect of the scene proved too much for their self-control. They laughed in a most infectious manner, and the audience showed their appreciation of the incident by indulging in roars of merriment, which broke out at various intervals during the remainder of the play, much to the discomfort of those who graced the "boards."

*Richelieu* was presented by a Canadian company, but at various times stock companies from the States visit the largest towns, and in spite of their high prices of admission receive very good support.

During our stay in Edmonton we went to see an opera of a popular kind. This, to my mind, afforded a very doubtful pleasure owing to several unavoidable deficiencies, for which a lack of funds is responsible. A travelling operatic company cannot afford to carry an orchestra, and this means that their pianist is supplemented by the local musicians. The performance of some of these local players was certainly open to criticism, and detracted very much from the general effect of the piece. Another weak point was the chorus, which was decidedly thin owing to

insufficient numbers. However, many Westerners attend the opera and thoroughly enjoy it, and no doubt to those who have not had the opportunity of hearing opera under better auspices these performances are a real treat.

If the opera in the West is at present not quite all that one might desire, the vaudeville theatres and cinematograph shows are certainly worthy of praise. We were astonished to find how thoroughly up-to-date and enterprising the latter are. Great events are exhibited in a remarkably short space of time after they have taken place, and the management aim in every way to give their audiences an enjoyable and décent entertainment. The crowded houses testify not only to the wise selection of films and the comfort of the buildings, but are also an unspoken tribute to the orchestral accompaniment. As these picture houses offer very high prices to good musicians they succeed in securing excellent music.

Quite distinct from the rest of the social life in the West are the church socials, which go merrily on during the winter months, and are an excellent medium for bringing strangers and new-comers into touch with the local inhabitants. A committee undertakes to provide some form of entertainment at each meeting. This consists of lectures on interesting subjects, musical evenings at which all who possess musical or histrionic talent are expected to take part, and once a month the regular social, when refreshments are served after the members are tired of games, competitions and conversation. From time to time the more ambitious ones give

a play, when all the members decide to attend the entertainment and outsiders seek an invitation, which is gladly given. The room is therefore packed to overflowing.

During the summer months in Edmonton garden parties were arranged by the ladies of one of the churches. The clerk of the weather seemed determined to veto this form of entertainment, and was as unkind as possible, by persisting in throwing a wet blanket upon their endeavours. Not to be defeated, the valiant committee transferred their garden party to the schoolroom, where an orchestra effectively dispelled the outside gloom.

Church socials are almost a necessity in the West while new-comers continue to flock in, and the clergy, who are untiring in their efforts, feel that it is especially important to get some of the residents in touch with the young people as soon as possible upon their arrival. Strangers to Canada who have left their English reserve, ideas and customs behind them will receive a warm welcome in the Dominion. Not only will they become part and parcel of the existing social life, but opportunities to join musical clubs, dramatic and operatic societies, and various other social gatherings will be offered them.

The different phases of social life in Edmonton had taught us much. We hoped that its inhabitants would endeavour to preserve the free-and-easy customs incidental to a new country, for they would not improve them by a poor imitation of ancient cities with their old customs. The West has its own charm. This is fully understood by the Westerners

of riper years, who bewail the silly airs and ostentation adopted by a few of the would-be leaders of society, who in their painful struggle for a mere chimerical success do not even hesitate to throw overboard their former friends and acquaintances lest they should lose caste with their new friends. These women, with their shrill voices, their loud manners and their little minds, are the social canker which is injuring the feminine community in the West to-day. They, of course, bear no resemblance to the typical Western women, who, with their warm, generous impulses, their good hearts, their bright, unaffected manners and their loyalty to their friends, are infinitely attractive.

In the natural process of mental evolution they are progressing along the right lines, and with their virile personality, their wit and their charm, will perhaps in time succeed in obliterating that noxious element which is the offshoot of a false and superficial culture.

To bring an added culture and refinement into the social amenities of the prairie towns is an estimable desire, but the open hospitality and broad Western outlook on life must not be submerged. Therefore let the women from Eastern Canada and old centres of civilisation take care how they try to lay an improving hand upon the existing social conditions, not only in Edmonton, but in the vast West.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THEIR LITTLE WAYS.

CANADIANS often told us that they consider our little ways "too cute for anything," although they would persist in making fun of the Englishman's tight trousers, his gaiters, his knickerbockers and his drawl; but they were sufficiently fair-minded to admit that the Englishman differs as much as his accent. When we returned the compliment by pointing out their peculiarities, which English people regard with mingled feelings, they were surprised to find that Canadian idiosyncrasies can and do arouse feelings of surprise, amusement and pleasure in others.

One of their most pleasing customs is brought to one's notice every time one makes a new acquaintance. With hand outstretched, the Canadian, after rather an elaborate introduction, advances to greet you with the words, "Pleased to meet you." The earnest, heart-felt tone attracted our attention more than the novel phraseology, while the welcoming smile and almost too pressing handshake remained in our minds for long afterwards, and gave us a nice, warm glow around the heart. Years of mere acquaintanceship seemed to be bridged over in one

vivid moment, and much that is boring and superficial dispensed with.

Part of this pleasing impression disappeared when conversation commenced, for the women, and sometimes the men, usually sank into rocking-chairs, which are ubiquitous in Canadian drawing-rooms, and create an effect which can only be realised by those who have seen, heard and felt it. The voices, which are more often than not devoid of soft modulation, the endless accompaniment of creaking chairs, and the nervous unrest which characterises the women's attitude, is apt to prove trying at first to the English temperament, and made us wonder sometimes if the virility and unrest of Canadians is altogether an advantage.

We laughingly drew attention to this custom, and when our friends had recovered from their amusement, they freely admitted that rocking-chairs were a bad habit, and did not tend to produce repose in times of leisure. They certainly did not foster elegant or graceful attitudes, for when conversation assumed an interesting or exciting aspect, the chairs gained an increased impetus, and were apt at times to assume alarming angles.

At meal-times another peculiarity obtruded itself upon us, and at first proved decidedly bewildering. Well do I remember my first experience of a Canadian Supper, and my mental groping to instinctively acquire Canadian customs. My plate, a large and pretty one, was literally loaded with meat, salads, and buns, when different home-made cakes were passed round the table, and great disappointment



expressed if each were not sampled. It was a case of misunderstanding, for while the cakes looked far too delicious to be rejected, I had only wished to wait until some of my supper had disappeared, in order to find a spare corner for the next delicacy. At that time I did not understand that it is the custom for everything on the table to be passed round at the beginning of the meal, and to be deposited on the large plate provided for supper, when of an informal order. It is, perhaps, a relic of the old pioneering days, when simple customs existed through necessity, and certainly gave us the opportunity of enjoying a big, solid meal without the conversation being continually interrupted in order that our wants might be attended to. It evokes a generous hospitality, and is a custom that must be much appreciated by children. The labour-saving devices, so necessary in the West on account of the dearth of servants, probably are largely responsible for it. At formal dinners, luncheons, or teas English customs take precedence.

In hotels and restaurants we were bewildered, not by a lack of plates, but by the multiplicity of dishes. As soon as we sat down to dinner in any of the hotels in a Western city, a glass of cold water and the inevitable pat of butter in its own particular dish were set before us. The soup created no difficulties, but when the joints were reached, such a medley of dishes surrounded our plates that we stopped to consider them. A separate dish for the meat, potatoes, cauliflower, and corn was provided, while the salad reposed on still another dish. At first we

were under the impression that the hotel catered only for huge appetites, but after collecting the fare from the various dishes, we found that the dinner would not overtax our gastronomic capabilities.

Toothpicks are very much in evidence after any meals, more particularly in hotels and restaurants, and it took us some time to become accustomed to the strange sight of men walking along the streets with their toothpick actively in evidence. This habit of picking their teeth is rather objectionable when travelling, and we experienced much surprise when a Canadian woman, while conversing to us in a most interesting manner, ceaselessly picked her teeth. Canadians take great care of their teeth, and this is the excuse which is offered for the toothpick. It is sometimes extended to the gum-chewing habit, which never gained our admiration, for the ever-moving jaw of the gum-chewer detracts very much from the beauty of the woman, and is decidedly displeasing in the men.

If tooth-picking and gum-chewing found no favour in our eyes, there was a street custom which surprised and delighted us. Men of all classes are to be seen with cigarettes, pipes, and cigars in their mouths, but should they chance to meet anyone of the opposite sex, whether unknown or an acquaintance, the dearly-loved "smoke" was at once removed till the fair one had passed on. In apparently well-educated, well-to-do men, we expected nothing else; but when some really rough specimens of humanity, whose appearance probably belied them, followed suit, the tales of Canadian chivalry and deference

to women came to our minds, and we realised a little the truth of them. Suffragettes, with their unwomanly attacks upon men, have not yet reached that Far West. The women, when we questioned them on the subject, informed us that they were far too busy getting married and keeping their houses going to have time or energy to spare for militant tactics. While even professional men are to be seen wheeling the baby's pram in the streets, unashamed and devoid of self-consciousness, the women of Canada would be mad indeed to try and alter the little ways of their husbands. In time of necessity they are able and willing to light the fire and help in the house, and on many an occasion we heard grateful wives speaking of the kindness of their husbands, who had risen earlier each morning in order to get as many of the "chores" done as possible before going to business. A delicate, too busy, or ailing wife had been the cause of this extra attention.

## CHAPTER IX.

### CANADIAN CITY HOMES.

It is undoubtedly an interesting and unique experience to live in a Western village while it grows into a prosperous town, and later attains the dignity of a city. The speed with which it passes through these various phases, of transition is almost phenomenal, so it is not surprising that tales of its growth arouse feelings of incredulity in the minds of outsiders, and more especially in those who have only dwelt in old centres of civilisation. One can literally see and feel the place grow, while the sound of hammers disturbs one's early morning slumbers as the wooden homes spring up on all sides. And what an exciting panorama passes before one's eyes in the streets, for as the town develops the inhabitants who own pretty and comfortable houses in the East End suddenly realise that this quarter has become the centre of business and factories. They decide to live in the new, fashionable part—the West End. A lot of land is bought there, and then arrangements are made with the removers to take their dwelling to its destination, which is perhaps a mile away.

Rollers are brought, which are gradually eased

under the building, and the wooden house begins to move. Soon it is quite clear of its original foundations, and commences its journey down the street at a pace which is carefully controlled by the men, as the removers have guaranteed that not even the plaster shall be cracked during its transit from East to West.

An amusing instance of the efficacy of the removers' care has often been exemplified by the family remaining in their home during the whole journey. They carry on their usual domestic routine, and are able to cook their meals with the same ease as when on the old steady foundation, and even inform their friends that they feel all the better for the change of air.

The "shacks," owing to their diminutive dimensions, require no elaborate accessories, and are simply put on wheels and drawn by a horse at a fairly rapid rate. One day, after returning from a short walk, we were much amused to find a shack had arrived during our absence. Its presence in such a short time seemed incredible, but there it was, a living proof of the "moving spirit" of the West.

In the business parts of the town the removers are kept busy. Humble little wooden structures disappear, giving place to the handsome brick blocks to be erected. The streets at this time present a curious ancient and modern appearance, for the lofty brick block rises up against the humble frame (wooden) store, making it look insignificant and crude. Funny little wooden shanties, which served as offices in the old days, disappear down the streets,

and with their departure a slight feeling of regret fills one's heart that the old primitive aspect of the town is gradually being obliterated. And yet there is a decided attraction in watching the transformation which is to be seen on all sides, and a visit even to the West End often gives one the opportunity of witnessing domestic transitions.

As business increases, the growth in the East End is simply marvellous. No foul slums, with dirty, emaciated children hanging round the doors, exist to sadden one's heart, but wonderfully clean, spic-and-span little homes, many of which are built on land owned by the householder, and bespeak thrift, gladden the eye, and prove in the happiest fashion that Canada's opportunities have been seized by the right sort of people. There is no need to start fresh air funds for the children here; they live in an atmosphere that is untainted by smoke or fog.

More pretentious homes are also to be seen in this quarter belonging to those who still think the East End suitable and desirable for their residence, but in process of time even these will follow the natural inclination in Canada—to go West.

In the West End the houses show great variety, from the big, imposing brick house with its well-kept lawns and garden to the little frame one. Inside is the same contrast. The pretentious home gives evidence of wealth not only in its costly furnishings and richly-dressed women, but expensive souvenirs of foreign travel meet the eye on all sides, and with their attractive suggestion of Eastern art help to tone down that new appearance which is almost

inseparable from Western homes, and comes perhaps from the Westerner's love of bright colours. The same characteristic is discernible in the more unpretentious dwellings, where, in spite of everything being on a very simple basis, the result is something that is decidedly cosy and homelike. As a rule, the Canadian housewife also manages to keep at bay the dreaded dirt and dust, and her house is a model of cleanliness. And this without a staff of servants!

Another peculiarity we observed in looking at the houses in Edmonton, more particularly those in the West End, was the absence of brick walls and high fences. Being impregnated with the idea that every Englishman's home is his castle, where he loves to hide himself from prying eyes, we found this custom of having only little low palings to enclose the house, without giving any privacy, distinctly novel. It certainly added to the beauty of the town. As we wandered still farther West, evidences of the new-comer were unmistakable. House-rents are very high, or perhaps no houses are vacant, but the people, many of them from the Old-Country, in their determination to stick in that particular town, bought tents. These they converted into very comfortable quarters by boarding up the sides, laying down a wooden floor, and if the funds permitted it, inserted a glass window and a wooden door. With a good camp stove they were immune against frost, even when the thermometer dropped a long way below zero.

Sometimes the strains of a piano were heard emanating from these apparently incongruous sur-

roundings, and one night we stood enchanted while some lady carolled to the stars, her liquid notes soaring higher and higher in the clear still air, while the white canvas which screened her from our interested eyes only lent an additional charm to her vocalisation. Very different was the gramophone, of an old fashion make, however, which no canvas can make mellow, shouting out some rollicking song, or hurrying through Raff's "Cavatina," in order to get it all on the record. A harsh voice, immortalised in wax, next informed us that two lady singers would give us a duet, and a wonderful exhibition of vocal gymnastics followed, when the little crowd which had been attracted by the music quickly dispersed. Even the charm of a Canadian evening failed to shed any glamour upon these ladies' efforts.

As we wandered back with our friends, we could not help noticing how different the wooden houses looked at night under the soft beams of the moon. By day we sometimes longed for some evidence of architectural talent; for many of the houses, like the fine broad streets, had been laid out on straight lines, showing that utility and economy had been the first consideration. This is, I suppose, a peculiarity of every new country, for in the Eastern cities many beautiful homes are to be seen.

As the majority of dwellings in the West are built of wood, the necessity of insuring them against fire is never disregarded. Every precaution is demanded by the Insurance Companies, and the neglect of this renders the policy useless when compensation is demanded. At present property is greatly



safeguarded through most houses being detached. I remember a little English boy remarking one day :

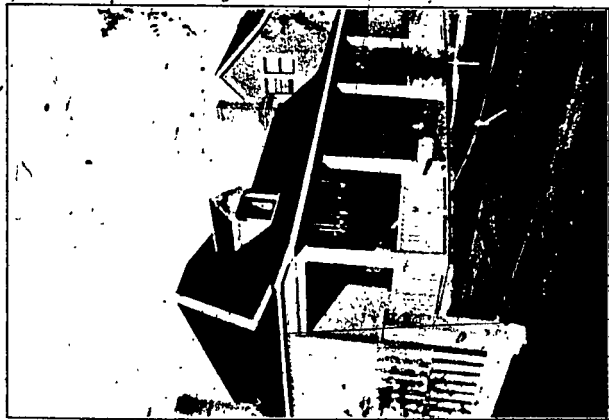
" It seems so funny to see such little houses built separately on a piece of land. In England such small homes are joined to each other."

" Ah ! but in Western Canada we still have plenty of room," I replied.

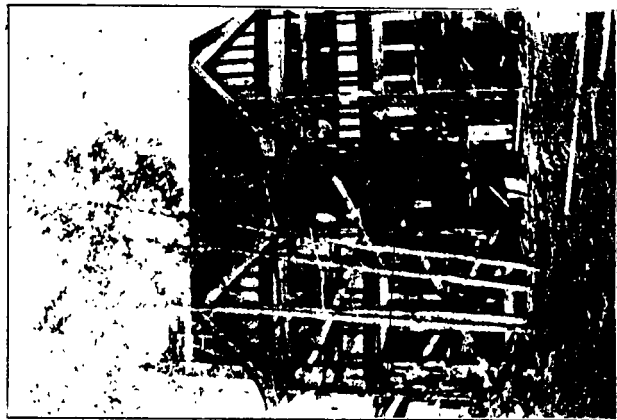
" Yes, that is true," remarked this little John Bull, " and I like being here much better than in England, for there the boys used to make fun of my lameness when I passed through the streets, but they never do here."

Canadian boys are not tongue-tied by any means, and a cripple to them must be something of a curiosity, but evidently they think it mean and unmanly to hurt the weak.

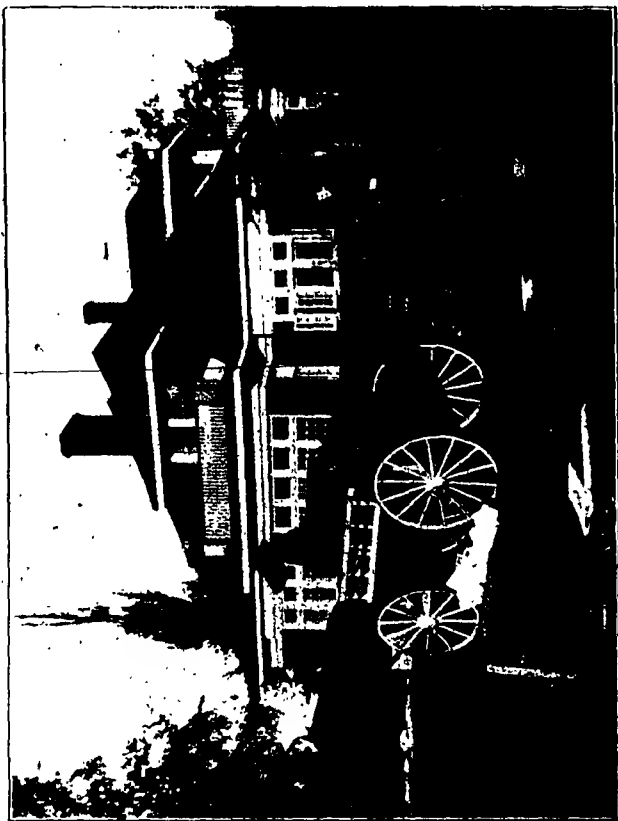
This little bit of crippled humanity was no more interested in his new surroundings than we were. The electric light in the churches, public buildings, and some of the homes of Western villages was certainly unexpected, while the telephone, which so many deemed a necessity with which to do their shopping, etc., was just as amazing. In the midst of this modern up-to-date civilisation the " water-cart," a relic of very primitive conditions, served as an amusing contrast. In one Western city, before the water-works were there (and the village had grown into a big town before this took place), householders bought barrels for their water. The water-cart, which was filled from the river, came round once or twice a week as it was ordered, and the driver, who usually owned the business, charged at



*Wooden Houses spring up on all sides.*



*The sound of hammering disturbs one's early morning slumbers.*



*A Canadian Brick House.*

the rate of six barrels for a dollar. New-comers looked askance at the muddy fluid, and hesitated about using it, but the inhabitants vouched for its purity, and drew attention to the fact that typhoid was nearly unknown in their town.

During the summer the barrels were kept outside, but in the winter the cold weather necessitated their removal indoors, as Canadian ice takes too long to break. Tin dippers are used to bale out the draught of life, and well I remember the shock we received, one day when some very dirty men came up to the barrel, filled the dipper and drank deeply. They, however, were the only visitors who took "French leave."

Later we chanced to come across an English couple who gave us the history of their home, which seems worth repeating for the benefit of any others who may be contemplating a removal to Canada.

This English couple bought a lot, fifty feet by one hundred and fifty feet, for which \$150 (or £30) was paid. Then a builder was found, who offered to put up a house and advance the money necessary for its construction at the rate of nine per cent. interest, the money to be paid in quarterly instalments. The rate of interest seemed very high, but the prospective owners fully realised that it paid better to borrow money at that rate of interest in order to have a home of their own than to rent a house, because the town was developing at a great rate, and their property would be worth very much more in two or three years' time. They ordered the builder to start work, and in a very short time a frame

house was run up. Its outside dimensions were sixteen feet by twenty-four feet. Inside, a wooden partition was put up and two little bedrooms made, one ten feet by ten feet, and the other somewhat smaller. The rest of the house was the living-room. The walls were not plastered, as the owners fully intended enlarging their dwelling when their means permitted it. For a time they managed very well in this little nest, the rooms were plainly furnished, and the cooking-stove kept the whole place well heated.

A year later they decided to enlarge their home. The builder was again consulted, and agreed to advance more money at the same rate of interest for the necessary alterations.

The roof was raised six feet and an upstairs built. The partitions downstairs were pulled down and an archway erected, with folding doors. This made a good sitting-room in the front, while the back part, where a pantry was put in, served as a dining-room, and the whole was made proof against the cold by two good coats of plaster. A lean-to kitchen was built at the back, and a porch sheltered the front door, as there was no hall. The owners painted all the woodwork inside in order to save money, and they oiled and varnished the floors for the same reason.

Painters were called into requisition to colour the outside, as this enhances the appearance of a house and helps to preserve the lumber. They gave it three coats of white paint, and when everything was completed the building could scarcely be recognised.

Inside the walls were coloured with kalsomine, the rough plaster being especially adapted for this.

And what a tremendous amount of pleasure the owners derived from their home, which had improved bit by bit, the improvement being possible through their self-denial and hard work.

Later on the window screens which are so necessary in Canada were bought for the windows, in order to keep out all insects, as the hot summer months bring flies, mosquitoes and wasps. Screen-doors were put up, so in this way it was absolutely unnecessary to have an insect in the house.

People who think Canada is unbearable in the summer on account of the mosquitoes must remember that it is sheer carelessness which is the cause of their invading the homes. Those who cannot afford screen-windows can very easily substitute mosquito-netting, by tacking it up on the outside of the windows.

The English couple had the money for storm-doors and storm-windows by the time winter set in. These are a great addition to any house, and soon pay for their cost in the amount of fuel saved. A storm-door is made of wood, and is fitted on the outside of the ordinary house door. The storm-windows are fastened with hinges outside the windows. A little ventilator is arranged on the top of them, which can be opened or closed. When the thermometer registers several degrees below zero, these windows freeze to the outside of the window-frame, so the only way of getting fresh air into the house is through the ventilator, if the housewife is adverse to having

her doors open. Our English acquaintances derived great comfort from these extra fittings, and completed the house by having the lot fenced in.

Their early expectations of the value of the property were fully realised, for although the house and land cost about \$1,200 (£240), an offer of \$5,000 (£1,000) was made for it, which they refused, as later the land will be worth a higher figure.

The custom of selling a home as soon as money can be made on it seems very strange to the new-comer at first, but the old conservative spirit of England would be fatal to the growth of the West at present. Often it is through starting a home in a small way and gradually improving it as the funds increase that the average new-comer can secure a home worthy of his ambitions.

But after all it is the women who are the home builders. To them belongs the power of converting any building, however insignificant it may be, into home. How much that would mean to some lonely bachelor, who after his day's work has to do his own "chores" and cook his own suppers, only those who have listened to his expressed dislike of the celibate state can understand his feelings.

And what better life can a woman wish for, than to raise up a refuge from the world for some tired man and train his children to be good, useful citizens, carrying out the ideals and sound principles of the parents taught them in the sanctity of home.

Does it not mean more to a girl to be prized and treasured by some good man, and be queen of his home, even if she has to soil her hands with domestic

work, than to enjoy comforts here, while battling and struggling with the world, to which she means nothing?

While I was watching a procession of Suffragettes in England, and listening to the uncomplimentary comments made by the men, my heart was filled with sadness. If only I could get these women to go out to Canada, I thought, and employ all this energy expended on Suffragism, what a power they would be to the country: Perhaps then they would realise that a true womanly woman has weapons which are invincible and always will be, for truly the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.



## CHAPTER X.

### EDUCATION IN THE WEST.

WESTERN CANADA has already provided us with various pleasant surprises, but her schools, of which Canadians are justly proud, proved perhaps the greatest of all. We were astounded to discover that Edmonton was not only the happy possessor of several schools, but that each one should be the acme of perfection in education, sanitation and comfort. The West has a slight outlet for its philanthropy in the care of the halt, decrepit and old, so turns its attention to the welfare of its children, and even the bachelor homesteader does not grudge the taxes for the education of his neighbour's little ones.

The support given to the common school has always been liberal, perhaps because its inception and possession depends on the initiative of the people to be served, as the Government provides for no initial grant, and this throws all responsibility and effort upon the people themselves. The provincial grant for maintenance, however, is quite liberal, constituting about sixty-six per cent. of the maintenance cost. In the towns and cities the grant is not so large; it depends in both cases

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on the percentage of attendance, and the bonusing of this feature of efficiency seems to work well.

In a country where mixed races abound it is essential to have teachers who will instil the old British ideals and principles in the minds of the children, and teach them loyalty to the mother country and the old flag. This is a noble work which none need scorn to undertake, and girls to whom social status means much will gain in this respect in Western Canada.

This need for British teachers in Western Canada has already attracted many from the Old Country, who are eager to have the opportunity of strengthening British interests in the Canadian portion of our Empire, and glad to secure a chance of bettering their condition.

There is a strong and constant demand for properly qualified trained teachers in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and a limited demand for Manitoba. Alberta alone needs about six hundred additional teachers every year, and provides about two hundred. The Eastern Provinces supply a certain number, but not nearly enough. Appointments are made by the individual local School Boards, but full information as to vacancies can be secured from the Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education, Regina, Saskatchewan; the Deputy Minister of Education, Edmonton, Alberta; the Secretary of the Advisory Board, Department of Education, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Certificates obtained outside the Province of Manitoba may be recognised by the Advisory Board,

for the Government does not insist upon certificates being obtained in the provincial training schools. British teachers who have not taken a University degree can be recognised by sending their certificates to the Advisory Board at Winnipeg, by whom standing will be granted according to merit and training.

Teachers who have received their training outside Saskatchewan and Alberta are, upon their arrival, granted an interim certificate by the Department of Education, enabling them to teach in these provinces. These interim certificates, however, last only one year, for then the teacher has to qualify at the provincial normal school for a second certificate. No tuition fees are charged, and the only expense incurred during this period, which lasts from four to six months, is board and maintenance, which can be secured for 18s. 6d. to 22s. 6d. a week, and the cost of a few texts along pedagogical lines.

Teachers must remember that conditions in Canada are very different to those in England, and, owing to this, it is usually possible for men and women, provided they are willing and adaptive, to find opportunities of earning sufficient money to defray their expenses while at the normal school. Should personal inclination render such a proceeding distasteful, the teacher would have sufficient money saved from his previous year's teaching to render it unnecessary. It would be rather foolish, however, to spend money instead of earning it, even if manual labour had to be resorted to, for the hard worker, devoid of "airs," is admired and respected in

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Canada, and, with the excellent opportunities for investing any spare cash, it is wise to save money whenever possible.

Although Saskatchewan and Alberta offer such splendid openings for British teachers of both sexes, yet it is most unwise for them to rush out before first making inquiries. In order to ascertain their standing, applicants may submit their certificates to the English Board of Education, requesting them to forward an official statement concerning these to the Department of Education in Alberta.

When distances are considered, teachers can readily understand that it is scarcely practicable to enter into agreements for particular schools before leaving England. It is usually to their advantage to be free to accept a position upon arrival, in order to select the most desirable from the several vacancies which may exist.

Although teachers with the necessary qualifications are taking no risk in going to these sister provinces at the present time, owing to the large demand, yet it would be a very wise proceeding for them to get in touch with the British Women's Emigration Association, Imperial Institute, London, S.W. This Association has been in existence for very many years, and is absolutely reliable and trustworthy. Instead of women teachers being exposed to all sorts of difficulties and inconveniences on the journey, they have the advantage of travelling in a special car, and to young women who are unaccustomed to travel this is a great boon, for the Association arranges about their luggage, secures

berths for them, and sees that they are welcomed and helped upon arrival by the correspondents and various hostels in touch with the Association. The B.W.E.A. is in communication with the Educational Authorities of all the different provinces, and is willing to relieve teachers of all trouble regarding their papers. Perhaps the greatest assistance they render is to those who through lack of funds are unable to pay any or all of their passage money. In such cases the money is advanced as a loan, which is repaid out of their salaries after their arrival in the West.

The demand for the services of teachers for laundry, cooking, sewing, etc., is as yet limited, but some of the larger schools are now making provision for special departments, such as domestic science, manual training, art, etc., and needs along these lines will rapidly increase.

The average initial salary in rural schools is at present about \$600 (£125) per annum; in graded schools in villages and towns where more than one teacher is engaged the salary is a little higher, but varies according to the cost of living in the different parts. In most of the graded schools the yearly increase of salary depends upon the class of certificates held, and the length of service. In the larger grade of schools the maximum for men is about \$1,000 (£200), and for women about \$850 (£170). The principals of town schools and assistants in high schools usually receive from \$1,000 to \$1,800 per annum.

The cost of living depends largely upon locality.

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In rural districts, where teachers usually find it necessary to seek accommodation with a farmer, the rate will be from \$12 (£2 10s.) to \$15 (£3) per month. In villages, towns and cities the cost will be from \$20 (£4) to \$30 (£6) per month, but this greater outlay will be compensated for by the advantages accruing to town life.

The short time teachers remain in the work is one of the reasons of their continued scarcity in the West. Business and land-getting make the average duration about two years, suggesting to the uninitiated rather a low professional spirit in the teaching craft, which is by no means the case. Western teachers are of a good business type, on the look-out for the many tempting opportunities Canada offers. The rapidity with which the country is being settled also conduces largely to scarcity of teachers.

The Minister of Education has the power to compel the establishment of a school in a district which contains twenty children or more, if the settlers persistently refuse to make the necessary application, but only once has he had to exercise his prerogative, and it is very rarely that even a solitary vote is polled against the organisation of a school district. The number of pupils required to secure the establishment of a school is twelve.

While the officials fully realise that a large number of "permit" teachers is a calamity, they must perforce accept them. "Permit" teachers are those whose standing is not recognised as an equivalent to the Department's lowest grade of certificate, or whose course and training do not correspond to

the work. Generally "permit" teachers are those who have not sufficient professional interest to qualify regularly, or who hold expired low grade certificates from other provinces. The average salary paid to them is as high as that given to the regularly qualified second-class teacher, probably because the last schools supplied are ready to pay a good price for any kind of teacher.

The primary demand of Western Canada, so far as teachers are concerned, is for the primary school teacher in the primary country school-house. It is scarcely to be expected that British teachers will at once secure the best positions; they must be content to commence in the country, and gradually work their way up, when every opportunity for advancement will be granted them. The methods of teaching are different, and the Department of Education naturally aims at a uniform system throughout the province, and for this reason it is not advisable for older teachers, who have been following their own methods so long that they would be unable and unwilling to adapt themselves to new conditions, to seek an opening in Canada.

The rural teacher usually comes into town after about a year. Living in the country, however, possesses many advantages; there the teacher can be really a great power, and may, perhaps, on that account have a better time than in town. The chief drawback to a new teacher would probably be the scattered district, forming a great contrast to the English village, and giving her no doubt at first a sense of loneliness. If, however, she is willing to

adapt herself to the people, and to enter heartily into all the local affairs, her popularity will be assured. Should she be the happy possessor of musical talents, then her sway in the district will undoubtedly be supreme.

The rural school is always a substantial structure, usually frame, but frequently made of brick. It serves as a place for education, for holding public meetings, and as a temple for worship. The Alberta schools are constructed according to plans provided by the Minister of Education, and are models of healthy comfort. This status is maintained by the conscientious examination of the school inspectors, who not only inspect the schools from an educational point of view, but see that provision has been made for comfortably seating the pupils, and to the heating, ventilation and lighting of the building. Their duties extend even further, an inspection of the playground—as to order, size and arrangements—being included.

The school-house is placed as near the centre of the district as possible. This means, of course, that many pupils will have two, three or more miles to travel. The only way of covering the distance is by riding or driving. The school boards are compelled to provide a comfortable stable for the animals, which are somewhat varied, from the rather insignificant cayuse (Indian pony) to the well-groomed horse. Visitors in the country districts sometimes receive a shock of surprise when a small cayuse appears, *en route* to the school-house, carrying a goodly load of children, two, three and sometimes



even four being taken by the contented burden-bearer. These ponies are wiry and strong, and would no doubt feel proud of their strength could they but know that it is the means of giving their human load the opportunity of education at the school-house.

I have heard of an occasional child riding on a steer to school. Farmers describe the motion as highly conducive to "sea-sickness," until the rider becomes thoroughly accustomed to it, but at the best of times it must surely prove a severe form of "rough riding."

The nature and character of the pupils' outside reading is also looked after by the inspectors. With the idea of encouraging as much reading outside the text-books as possible, an allowance is made annually by the Provincial Government for the purchase of all the standard authors. Readers are supplied free of charge by the Government, whose ambition it is to teach every child to read, write, spell, and do arithmetic with the smallest possible expense to the parent. The curriculum includes, besides these elementary subjects, history, geography, grammar, composition, elementary algebra and Euclid, elementary agriculture and drawing. Favouritism on the part of a teacher is nearly impossible, for when the pupil has completed the above course of studies, a list of questions is prepared by the Minister of Education, which is sent to all the schools, and the pupils write on the subjects taught. The papers are sent to the Minister and graded.

The Department of Education has found the foreign element a most encouraging feature of its work. A special officer, who is appointed to act as a species of commissioner, inspector, and official administrator, devotes his time exclusively to moving around among the Galicians, who constitute the biggest proportion of foreigners in the province. He assists them in taking the initial steps in establishing school districts, and for a time acts as an official trustee to administer the affairs of the district, or assists the elected board of trustees to perform their duties, until such time as they are qualified to do so themselves. The Galician children are remarkably bright. They pick up the English language very quickly from their English-speaking teachers, and prove very apt pupils indeed. It is through education the rising generation of Galicians and other foreigners will become good Canadian citizens, and their attitude towards education is very gratifying. Between thirty and forty school districts have been erected in the foreign districts. The inspection of the schools is in the hands of a corps of provincial and not local officers. The inspection applies not only to public schools, but to separate schools (Roman Catholic, but, inconsistent as it may seem, quite a few Protestant parents send their children to these schools), whose only distinctive character is the giving of religious training during the last half-hour of the day.

While the public school is really everybody's school, because perhaps parents need their grown boys and girls to help on the land, and the children

themselves find such opportunities in the undeveloped resources of the country, it can hardly be expected that secondary school work in the province should show the same development as the public school work.

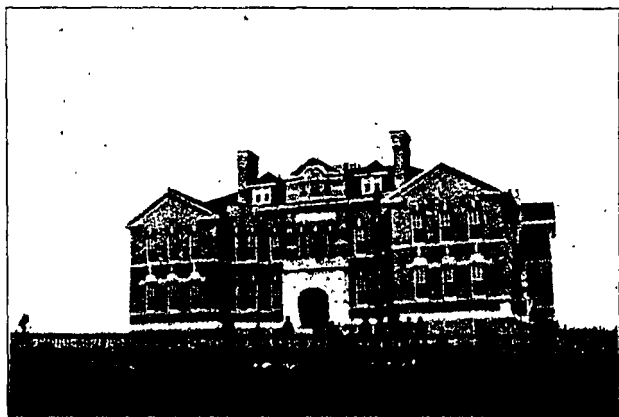
The number enrolled in the secondary school standards, six, seven, eight, is only about two and a half per cent. of the total enrolment. In the older English-speaking provinces of the Dominion the number enrolled is from five to seven per cent. As the secondary schools have not been given explicit status, and as grants for this work are rather small, relative to the capital cost of secondary education, the matter of developing a good class of secondary schools has not yet seized the public mind to the extent it should, a matter of regret to those interested in the educational development of the province. The need of encouraging a good system of secondary schools is rather pointed. It must always be the case that the public schools will depend on the secondary schools for teachers, and in light of the present great need for teachers, the lack of interest in the secondary school is most unfortunate. The secondary school performs two useful scholastic offices, that of turning out properly - equipped teachers perhaps being no more essential than that of fitting matriculants for the University. There is a probability that the expansion of the secondary school system will be accompanied by the introduction of practical or specifically useful courses relating to commerce, industry and homekeeping.

The length of the average school year is 210 school



*A School in Edmonton.*

Reading from left to right the nationalities are as follows :  
 (1) English, (2) Swede, (3) Scotch, (4) German, (5) Canadian,  
 (6) Galician, (7) American, (8) Irish, (9) Nigger

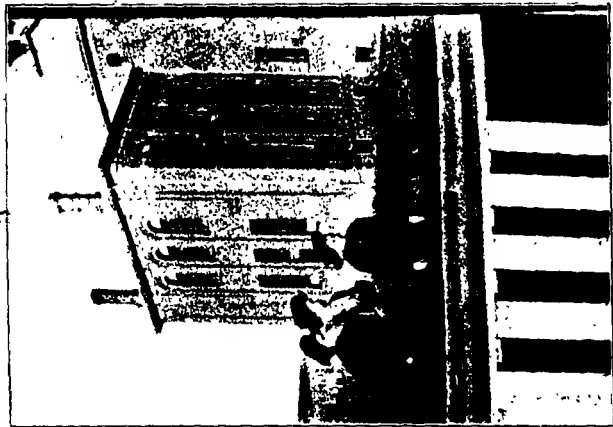


*Another School in Edmonton.*



*In the School Yard in Edmonton.*

When I asked for all the good-looking boys, a rush was made for the camera



*Three High School Girls who have just finished lessons for the day.*

days, the long vacation occurring during the heat of the summer, affording teachers opportunities for camping or any other form of healthy outdoor holiday.

Education is progressing in Alberta, for the Provincial University Classes were commenced on Sept. 23rd, 1908, with a class of forty students. Considering that such great Universities as McGill and Harvard started with from ten to twenty students, Alberta's University began under promising conditions. At present provision has been made for courses in arts and science, leading to the degrees of B.A. and B.Sc.

University graduates wishing to enter Canada only require, for the time being, a statement signed by the Registrar of the University, but undergraduates should state as fully as possible the scope of the work covered in their various subjects. Persons who are not University undergraduates should forward such official evidence as they are in a position to supply, and accompany this, where possible, with a calendar or syllabus defining the courses covered. It is not advisable for any of these people to "pull up stakes" in England before corresponding with the Canadian Educational Authorities.

The city public school is well worthy of the pride the Canadians take in it. Built of bricks, with lofty, airy rooms, these temples of learning are adapted in every respect for the work carried on there. And what a miscellaneous crowd of children are to be seen in the spacious playgrounds, where everybody

jostles with everybody, and there is no drawing aside in delicate fashion from some other schoolmate because her parents are of humble origin or live in a small house. No, the democracy of the West shows most plainly in the playground, filling the onlooker with warm, optimistic feelings for the future welfare of the country. Here all have the same chance, and the clever child has every opportunity of coming to the fore, knowing that in its own hands lies its future career.

Much foresight has been shown by the Educational Authorities, by their determination to secure Alberta's youth almost in its infancy, to provide them with the most powerful and potent weapon for battling with life—a good solid education, giving them the opportunity to be actually planted on the steps of the University free of charge. Many stirring stories we heard of ambitious boys and girls who at this stage feared the University could be nothing but a fond hope owing to lack of funds. Nothing daunted, however, these Canadians earned their own fees, and eventually came through with flying colours. In some cases it meant years of determination and work; and one able professor, now playing an important part in the higher education of Alberta, tells the tale of the first twenty-five cents he earned by leading the horse at a threshing-floor. All this was before the Universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan came into existence. Such men are the ones who “make good” in Canada.

Equally thrilling is the fire drill, carried out in beautiful orderly fashion, and bringing a great relief

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to the minds of many mothers, whose hearts have been saddened when reading of the appalling catastrophes in other schools, resulting from a lack of order and discipline in many cases. Cheer after cheer goes up as first the tiny tots are led out, followed by a seemingly never-ending stream of pupils, gradually increasing in size. So realistic has the whole procession been, that almost a sigh of relief escapes the visitor's lips as the last child is safely brought out.

Much has been done to improve these public schools from an educational point of view. In some respects the teaching has taken on a more finished tone. This is noticeable in the primary room, where, instead of the old monotonous methods employed to teach the tiny tots their A B C, fascinating pictures are now given, turning work into play and play into work. No wonder the youngsters love to go to school. For the older pupils there is now manual training and a fine class of art work, carried on by competent supervision, such expansion showing a steady progress in educational methods.

I think the key to the Canadian child's heart is tactful sympathy, for in the large majority of cases they are easily led, but baulk dreadfully when driven too hard. In some respects they seem more whimsical and quaint than English children, but prove very entertaining, owing to their lack of shyness and the ability to ask questions, and to carry on at times quite a learned conversation. Like all children, they have a keen, critical eye, and



any teacher who can pass unscathed under their mental searchlight is indeed fortunate.

Quaint little pictures some of them make with their multiplicity of plaits tied up with ribbons, or one long glorious pig-tail down the back ; with faces inclined to be thin, and lacking the rosy look of English children, caused partly by the dryness of the climate, and perhaps nearly as much by the late hours they keep. Yet strangely lovable children, entering heart and soul into whatever takes their fancy, and enjoying to the top of their bent anything in the shape of a " party,"

British teachers who will try and enter to some extent into the hopes and interests of their pupils, who will not forget the kind, encouraging word with its accompanying smile, will surely find that out in the Far West their lines have indeed fallen in pleasant places.

## CHAPTER XI.

MARY JANE.

THE domestic problem is even more serious in Canada than in England, and a great cry for domestic help has gone up from the women settled there. This inability to secure servants is one of the most serious problems facing the women of Canada to-day, and even those who happen to possess one often feel that she is a very doubtful blessing. Hard, stern necessity forces them to accept what would not be tolerated under happier conditions.

Many servants from Galicia, Germany and even far-off Russia have cast longing eyes upon "the land of promise," and, looking, have taken the plunge and entered the Dominion. Wonderful stories have been related to them by those who have gone before, and the writer has several times had the opportunity of hearing, in their native land, marvellous and thrilling tales of those who left with very little beyond the hard-earned or hard-borrowed passage money, and now are the proud possessors of happy homes of their own, or enjoying privileges in their places never to be dreamed of in their down-trodden community, where a peasant is "only a peasant," and hardly fit to breathe the same air as the lord of the soil lest he should become polluted, and scarcely

deigning to cast her eyes upon any of his household she may chance to meet, as they are great people, in their own minds at least, and demand servile homage. ¶ What a deplorable thing it is that these same peasants when they enter what to them is a paradise do not show their appreciation of the great change for the better in their existence by trying at least to meet their employers half way; by giving, at any rate, a certain amount of fair service for the wages which are talked of with bated breath in their own village as some golden dream which they strenuously seek to realise; that they cannot understand that although the Canadians believe in a give-and-take gospel, yet it does not extend to wearing apparel or valuable trinkets. What a drawback it is that they do not realise that although the whip has, figuratively speaking, been removed from their back, yet the kindly word, emanating from good-heartedness which has replaced it, does not permit the lack of all courtesy and civility on their part.

If the women of Canada could hear, as the writer has heard, the tones and the language employed towards these down-trodden women, both by their relatives and their employers, they would realise the mistake it is for them too suddenly to change the treatment, resulting, as it so often does, in utterly unsatisfactory service. Like good wine, given in too large quantities at first, it goes to the head, making the recipients lose what little mental balance they had. I would suggest that all these domestics should be ruled with a firm although kindly hand, that the position of employer and servant should be clearly

defined, and not too much mistaken kindness be lavished on them by "Missus." Civilisation must progress along slow, steady lines, and only shows good results under these conditions. Can one really blame these ignorant girls, who, when the heavy yoke is removed, imagine that all restraint has gone, and show it only too plainly?

The question of incompetency, lack of cleanliness and refinement concerning this class of servant cannot to my mind be really satisfactorily answered so long as these girls come fresh from the crude conditions of their own land, where the majority have received absolutely no training for domestic service. Surely the Canadian Government would be taking a step forward in the right direction by providing training homes, where the elements of domestic service could be instilled in their minds, and a few necessary words of English taught, such training to be compulsory.

Anxious to learn the opinion of two ladies of my acquaintance, who were dissimilar in tastes and habits, and therefore liable to show two sides of the question, I sought them out and made inquiries concerning these foreign servants.

Said Lady No. 1, a Canadian and a town bird, with several children and always too much to do—

"At present I have no girl, for I have decided to do without one. Really these servants seem to be more bother than they are worth; they demand such high wages, and have enormous appetites. We, of course, do not grudge them their food, I only mentioned that to show that they are really a very

expensive commodity. If they would give a fair amount of work no one would grumble, but what with breakages, the necessity to keep at them all the time to get anything done, and their untrustworthiness, they are too expensive a luxury for us. I came home the other day, and was considerably surprised when I rung the bell to see my servant arrayed in my best hat and gown. She thought it a huge joke, and had upset my drawers and wardrobes by taking out my things to try them-on. I really felt annoyed, and told her she could go.

"It is useless to lock up things, for locks and bolts are no drawback in their minds. I remember another girl who during my absence burst open the lock of the sideboard and ate a lot of my plum cake. If I had given her poor or insufficient food I would have excused such a proceeding, but she always had plenty. However, I overlooked this offence, anxious to make due allowance, and regretted my leniency when another day I found my desk burst open and all my letters and papers strewn about. Oh, the domestic problem is a very, very trying one to busy mothers! Think what a blessing it would be to get a girl who could cook; it seems almost impossible to get hold of a general servant who can cook anything fit to eat. One would think it would be comparatively easy to find one to do the very plain cooking, but even that seems nearly impossible."

"In spite of all these drawbacks, I suppose even such girls are better than nothing?" I inquired.

"Yes, they are. At present I am just tired of it all, but no doubt before long I shall be obliged to get

another, for at least they can wash the dishes and do the dirty work, and take care of the house while I get a breath of fresh air."

The sentiments of Lady No. 1 are shared by many busy women in Canada, who long with a great longing for competent help.

Lady No. 2, an Englishwoman, living on a farm, found the problem of securing domestic help even a more serious one, because she was domiciled in the country, and the majority of servants prefer the town. I listened to her experiences with interest, often tinged with amusement.

"My first servant was a big, 'husky' Galician, who came with no knowledge of English and a very scanty wardrobe. I plainly saw she was a very rough diamond, but still a diamond, and looking back I can easily decide that she was the best girl I had. She soon picked up a few words of English, and never grumbled at the work, but seemed content to go steadily on. Of course, her utter ignorance of even the rudiments of housework was at times extremely trying, but she gradually got into some of my ways, and proved a great help. She was always very happy if I gave a party, and was very proud when, dressed neatly with a white apron, the time came for her to wait on the guests at dinner. I really believe she enjoyed the gaiety quite as much as we did, although it meant more work for her. Of course, we all helped with the dishes and silver, and soon had the whole lot cleared up. While she was with me my first baby was born. I went into town for that, and during my absence she really proved trustworthy. I shall never

forget my return. When she heard the buggy wheels she came flying out and threw her arms round my neck and kissed me, saying, 'Missus back' in such glad tones. My husband and I were much amused at her demonstrative greeting, although we could not help being touched at her evident pleasure. She explained in very broken English how much she had missed me.

"But the warmest feeling I have in my heart for 'Mary' is on account of my baby. She was devoted to him, and I always knew that if I left him in her care he was absolutely safe. I have not found that with other girls. Sometimes I took Mary out for drives with me, letting her nurse the boy; she gave me an anxious moment once when the horse shied by dropping him into the bottom of the buggy, and clutching the splash-board with both hands. I really believe she thought her end had come, and yet there was really nothing to be alarmed about, the horse was perfectly under my control.

"Her cause of leaving was rather peculiar. After being with me for a year, her uncle, who seemed to be her guardian, and had advanced her passage money, suddenly appeared one day and told her she must come with him as he had a husband for her. She cried, and told me she did not want to go, and seemed in a great state about leaving the baby. She did not know her prospective husband, and her uncle was taking her to him on approval. Of course, the man was only too thankful to get such a big, strong woman for a wife. She was not at all bad looking either, and had grown much healthier while

with us with the good food and healthy living. I only wish I could find such another Mary.

"A young girl I had later on would have been quite suitable if it had not been for her relations, as she had some training, could speak English well, and was willing and obliging. At certain intervals these relations used to come and 'camp' in my kitchen, and made an awful mess of the place. After these visits something was always missing, and during their stay we had a most unpleasant time. The parents used to insist we should give every cent of the girl's wages to them, and when we asked how she was to buy clothes, they suggested that I could give her some, or she could go about as she was. At home she often wore sacks, but I explained that as we paid high wages we demanded that the servant must be respectably dressed. In the end I sent the girl away, much to her regret, as I feared that the baby might catch some disease with these dirty people coming so often."

"I wonder," I said, "that you did not try the plan adopted by many in Canada, that of sending to England for a girl, and advancing her passage money. I know that in some cases these girls have proved most unsatisfactory because of their laziness, incompetence, and inability to realise that in Canada servants must work for their wages; but many mistresses have found them treasures, judging from their satisfied letters."

My companion smiled with a look of rather indignant disbelief.

"I have tried two such girls," she said. "The



first one my father chose for me, and she was supposed to be a paragon. We found her very lazy, and her impertinence at length grew so overwhelming, that my husband insisted she should be dismissed. The second one I interviewed myself while on a visit to England. I put the matter before her in its worst light, determined that she should not have the opportunity of saying she was misled before starting. She impressed the fact upon me that she did not want to go 'gadding' about all the time; what she was looking for was a good home. She was the worst girl I had. We paid her very high wages, let her go out on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, gave her what treats we could, and the first Sunday of every month lent her the horse, buggy and a driver to go to the Roman Catholic Church, which was eight and a half miles away. She did not get back till late in the afternoon. Nothing pleased her, she grumbled all the time, and later on became so fast that we dismissed her. She had a perfect mania for wanting to dress up and go out, and seemed to forget altogether that we paid her to work and not to become a social light."

I felt a little depressed to hear that two of my countrywomen had proved so unsatisfactory, but was glad to know that it was an Englishwoman who had tried them and not a Canadian. I think, however, that these girls cannot be taken as a fair criterion of the British "general" servant, which is the chief want of Canada, for later I learnt that the first one had been a housemaid in England, and therefore not suitable for the general work required

of her on a farm, because she only liked the light, easy work. The second one had been a factory hand for years, and had only been in domestic service for a comparatively short time. She had been so thoroughly plausible in her statements as to her capabilities and requirements, and secured such a good testimonial from her last employer, that Lady No. 2 had been induced to choose her out of many applicants, the strongest point in her favour being her great eagerness to go, and her apparently contented disposition.

Some British servants have inquired if it is true that Canada is overdone, and that there is only room for a limited amount of general servants. We learnt that this is false.

The numerous requests for domestic servants which are daily received at the different agencies of the Immigration Department throughout the Dominion, the applications which are constantly being made for this class of help at employment bureaux by ladies desiring servants, and the large number of advertisements for domestics daily appearing in the city papers there, prove conclusively that there is no scarcity of vacant positions. It would be beneficial alike to the employer and employee if a large number of female domestics should decide at once to emigrate to the Dominion.

Although many a Mary Jane has found her way to Canada, the number would not have a noticeable effect in decreasing the demand even if all had remained in service. As a matter of fact, a very large percentage enter the matrimonial state shortly

## AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN THE CANADIAN WEST.

after their arrival, and in turn become themselves mistresses, requiring help in their household duties.

In Canada the extremes of poverty and of wealth, characteristics of older communities in Europe, do not exist, and a high standard of living and of well-being generally is widespread. While there are many wealthy families throughout the Dominion, the demand for domestic help is confined to the class known as "general servants." The wages for this class in Canadian cities are much higher than in England, and the demand is unlimited.

It must be borne in mind that Canadian households where general servants are employed are quite differently arranged from English houses, as different in internal economy as English and French homes in the same class. In Canada the duties of a general servant are varied. Mechanical aids to save labour are in general use. There are technical schools in all the cities where servants may learn cooking free, and they are allowed to attend them on certain evenings in the week by their employers.

Female farm servants are highly paid, and the demand is very urgent in the eastern townships of Quebec, throughout Ontario, and especially in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The female farm servant is expected, in addition to the usual indoor work, to do bread-making and butter-making.

All girls who have contemplated going to Canada as domestics, but have hesitated because they were afraid of being unable to secure situations, need

## MARY JANE.

hesitate no longer. At any time of the year there are hundreds of women longing for competent help. As the country is opening up more, the demand is if anything increasing. It is a matter of satisfaction to everyone that the class of girl who is now emigrating is gradually improving, and naturally every loyal employer prefers to encourage the emigration of British servants, provided they are willing to do their work satisfactorily, in preference to those from a foreign country.

For the servant who is anxious to emigrate, but does not know how to secure a situation in Canada, the following information will prove helpful. The Immigration Department has appointed a large number of Canadian Government employment agents in Ontario to secure situations for farm labourers and domestic servants. These agents are well acquainted in the vicinities in which they are at work, and will so far as possible see that all emigrants going to them are well placed; that is, if they are seeking domestic service. The agents will not interest themselves in any other women seeking situations.

A domestic servant proceeding to Ontario should ask the booking agent from whom she purchases her ticket for a list showing the names and addresses of the agents mentioned above. She should then select one of the places at which an agent resides and purchase her transportation to that point. The booking agent will immediately notify the Government Employment Agent as to the date upon which she intends to commence her journey, so that upon

## AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN THE CANADIAN WEST.

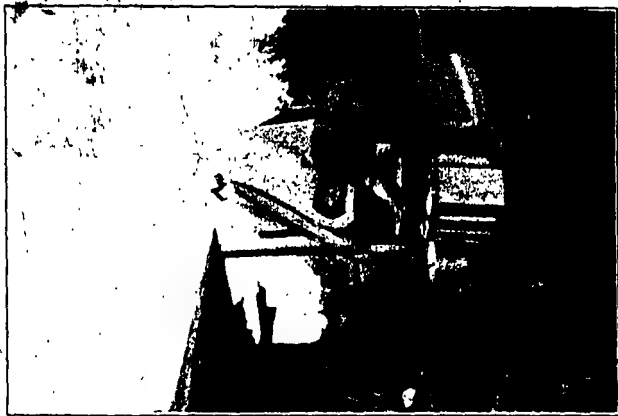
arrival at her destination a suitable situation will have been selected for her.

Those desiring situations in Nova Scotia should apply to the Dominion Government Immigration Agent, Halifax, N.S. Those wishing to live in New Brunswick may secure positions by applying to the Dominion Government Immigration Agent, St. John, N.B.; the Immigration Agent at Quebec, P.Q.; or the Immigration Agent at Montreal will place all domestics who wish positions in the Province of Quebec; while those going to or west of Winnipeg should apply to the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, Manitoba, who has always a large list of vacancies for domestic servants in the Western Provinces.

Many servants have been debarred from emigrating to Canada owing to their inability to pay their passage money. This difficulty has been overcome in many cases by ladies advancing the money, under the condition that the servant repays it out of her wages. Many ladies, however, object to this method, binding the servant as it does for a certain number of months till her passage money is repaid, and giving her employer no possibility of first seeing the girl she is engaging. Owing to the dissatisfaction that some girls have given under these conditions, many ladies refuse to advance any more passages. Still, such opportunities are from time to time occurring, and those who are desirous of securing their passage money in this manner should keep in touch with the Canadian agent in their town or district. The British Women's Emigration



*Washing is made easy with a  
Washing Machine.*



*Mary Jane making the Bread.*



*Mary Jane can be a great help  
with the children.*



*A Home in the Canadian West.*

Association, at the Imperial Institute, London, S.W., is a splendid institution through which servants can not only be emigrated, but secure a loan for their passage.

Although the wages in the Dominion are high, yet servants must bear in mind that Canadians are not willing to give the top price for incompetent service. The girl who has had little experience of housework, but is bright and willing to learn, must be content in the first place to take moderate wages. She must not imagine that Canadians are prone to offer a fabulous price for any sort of service. I think that is where Mary Jane so often makes a mistake. She seems to imagine that because domestics are so scarce any sum will be given her for any or very little work. Canadians, to my mind, are possessed of an abundance of common sense, and above everything else are an eminently practical people, and therefore not at all liable to countenance a "hold up" system.

The wages differ in various parts, the tendency being for them to increase as one proceeds West. A "general" servant receives in Eastern Canada anything from \$6 (£1 5s.) to \$15 (£3) a month; but much depends upon the girl and her capabilities. If she can cook a little, then her chance of procuring high wages will be very much greater; but it is of no use for her to imagine that any sort of cooking will do, for here the Canadian housewives indeed excel. I remember receiving a "basket" from some friends in the country, containing home-made brawn, buns, butter, jam, cakes, etc., and although



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I am not an epicure, yet no one, no matter how fastidious she might be, could have wished for better cooking. It was perfect.

Several times when I have "dropped in" for a few minutes to see friends, and have been pressed to stay for lunch, my scruples as to whether it was convenient or no being overcome by the housewife, who told me in laughing tones "that although she had nothing in the house suitable for a guest at the present moment she very soon would have." And I have sat in fascinated amazement while my hostess evolved some delicious dishes out of anything she happened to have, in what seemed to be an incredibly short space of time. So, Mary Jane, do not run away with the idea that the people "over there" are a little uncivilised as regards their culinary arrangements, and that raw beef-steak and hard potatoes will "do," or you will suffer great disappointment.

In Western Canada a general servant receives anything from \$10 (£2) to \$20 (£4) a month. These wages are a golden magnet, attracting many to the West who are anxious to make money, and to see something of the world at the same time. While lecturing in different towns in England, I have heard very audible "oh's" from the audience as these wages were mentioned. Out West they are gladly paid to competent girls, who will also remember that a polite, respectful bearing towards their mistresses is as essential in Canada as it is in England, and likely to establish much pleasanter relations. In other words, the mistress who finds that she has

a conscientious servant who takes some interest in her work, and does not forget what is due to her employer, will undoubtedly in the majority of cases make her domestic feel that by emigrating she has bettered her position in every way. It is advisable that servants should take their credentials with them, as good records are indispensable in Canada.

Those who have the idea that in Canada they will be considered more or less as one of the family must remember that it is generally in the country that these pleasant relations exist between maid and mistress. And they must bear in mind too that it does not mean the mistress is happy to see her domestic reclining in the best easy-chair in the house, while she takes what she can get. Neither does it mean that if the servant does have her meals with the family that she is to sit still when the dishes have to be changed, while her mistress does the work. Perhaps some good souls imagine that no servant could possibly have such ideas, but then those critics have probably not lived in Canada. There are many houses in the towns where servants are also made one of the family to a certain extent, but girls must remember that these are the exceptions.

While speaking to some girls who were most eager to emigrate to Canada to secure situations as domestic servants, I was curious to know what had caused this intense desire to go so far away. Said one girl:—

"I have a friend in Manitoba who loves Canada, because she says she is so well treated, almost like a daughter. She is on a big farm there."

"Yes," I said, "but she will have lots of work to do. Do not get the idea that you will have an easy time if you go on a farm, for there is always plenty of work."

"I do not mind work at all," said this enthusiastic girl, with eager, pretty face and soft voice. "You see, I have been a 'general' in England, and it has meant a lot of work, small wages, and a very dull time. My friend out in Manitoba gets lots of little treats, so she does not mind the work."

These girls who are willing to take the rough and the smooth together are the ones who are needed in Canada.

I remember a little incident which occurred in a Western town, and exemplifies the great need for competent servants there. A lady engaged a strong, capable servant who could cook as well as do the ordinary work of a house. She was given explicit instructions concerning the locality of her future home, but unfortunately lost her way, and called at a house to make inquiries. The lady gave her the necessary instructions, but informed her in the worst possible way that she was requiring a servant, especially one who could cook. She asked what wages had been offered her. Upon hearing that \$15 (£3) a month was the stipulated remuneration, she immediately offered \$18, hoping no doubt to bribe the girl. The latter, however, informed her that before accepting the offer she must first go to the lady who had engaged her. Upon her arrival she promptly told her that "she could get \$18 a month, and of course wanted to do the best for herself."

The matter was quickly settled by the lady's husband, who offered her \$20 a month. He was very much annoyed at the incident, as he thought the first offer sufficient, but having a delicate wife, deemed it truer economy to secure the servant at any cost.

Canadians who grumble at the exorbitant prices demanded by servants will be interested to know that it was a Canadian lady who caused this girl to get \$5 a month more than was originally intended, and what was considered a sufficient remuneration for a start, till she had proved her mettle.

Servants going West need to remember that the cost of living in some respects is high, and that therefore their wages mean much to their employers, being as they are a clear profit for the domestic, as she receives her board, washing and lodging free, and has only her own clothes to provide. By getting a good stock before leaving England, should she have the funds to do so, a nice "nest egg" should before long be lying at the bank under her name, unless she foolishly squanders her earnings by indulging in cheap finery.

Cooks receive anything from \$12 (£2 10s.) to \$20 (£4) per month, except in hotels and restaurants, where they naturally command higher wages. Housemaids get from \$8 (£1 12s.) to \$12 (£2 8s.), and nurses receive the same. However, in Canada the great demand is for the general servant, and not for those who specialise. Many young girls obtain employment as nursemaids. These girls go to their homes at night, and are paid from \$5 (£1) to \$7

(£1 8s.) a month. Such positions are especially helpful to parents with several daughters, and who need to have the family funds supplemented in some way. Nursery maids of the skilled class are much more difficult to place than domestic servants, although a young girl who does not expect a big salary, but is capable of looking after a baby, or one or two young children, can be placed almost as readily as a domestic servant. Herein lies the crux of the whole matter. Wise girls take what they can get, while they look out for what they want.

Laundresses can earn from \$16 (£3 4s.) to \$20 (£4) per month, but this is in a way skilled labour. Chinese laundries are very much in vogue in the West, and are of course operated purely by Chinese. They are well patronised, no doubt on account of their cheapness, and in some towns because it is impossible to secure anything else. They are a great boon to the many bachelors, who live in hotels or boarding-houses, and have to put their washing out. Some of these laundries do their work in a fairly satisfactory manner, but others leave much to be desired, returning the clothes as they do in a semi-dirty condition, to say nothing of torn embroidery.

Many people in Canada engage a woman to wash once a week, and in the West they earn \$1.50 (6s.) per day. These women are a thorn in the flesh to many housewives, owing to their inconvenient habit of not turning up when they have faithfully promised to do so. This is especially trying when all the clothes have been "put in soak," forcing the mistress to do her washing herself, no matter how busy she

may be, unless she wants her linen ruined. These same women are often engaged for a day's cleaning, and many married ones have been very glad of this opportunity to secure good money when they first arrived in Canada, and the funds were not very flush.

The problem of domestic service in the Dominion has been solved by some ladies in a rather satisfactory manner. They secure Chinamen to do the entire work of the house. Some of these Celestials prove most helpful, as they wash well, are able to cook, do their work expeditiously, and are never guilty of "answering back."

A friend of mine told me an amusing story concerning a Chinese servant. He was proving so satisfactory in his work that his mistress thought with a little training he would be quite capable of fulfilling the duties of a footman at her forthcoming reception. During the morning of the eventful day he received some training. His mistress rang the front door bell, taught "John" when he had opened it to take her card, show her into the drawing-room, and announce her name. This was repeated several times to ensure satisfactory results. The Chinese are excellent mimics, so no fears were entertained concerning "John's" ability to carry out his new duties.

In the afternoon the hostess, arrayed in a truly marvellous fashion, waited in her drawing-room for the expected guests. Suddenly the bell rang; and she listened in happy expectation of "John's" announcement. No "John" appeared, however,

## AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN THE CANADIAN WEST.

and the bell rang again, this time a little more lustily, as if the visitor was feeling some impatience at the delay. Feeling annoyed, but thinking that something unexpected had detained him, my lady was forced to go to the door herself. And what a surprise awaited her. "John," all smiles, exclaimed—

"You foolee me all morning, I foolee you all afternoon."

Fortunately the mistress possessed the saving grace of humour, which enabled her to come out with some dignity from what might well be described as an undignified situation. The most remarkable part of this story is that it is fact and not fiction. Who shall say that out West they do not get many startling moments, which help, by their very unexpectedness, to chase dull care away; which, indeed, mould and chasten the people, giving them an eminently sane and broad outlook on life, making them adaptable to any change in circumstances, giving them the necessity for alert minds, and so producing a zest for their daily routine of domestic labour, which is infinitely preferable in some ways to certain women than the dull, monotonous round which is the lot of so many housewives in England. Some women, no doubt, are happy in the knowledge that nothing can happen to alter their routine, their beautifully worked-out plan of order and method. They do not like things "to happen." Such dear, restricted souls will grow best in their own little sphere, and are not fitted for a wider world. One can well imagine how shocked their sensibilities

would be at many things which the adaptive, enterprising women to be found in the West take as a matter of course, because from experience they have learnt that a cheerful philosophy is the best antidote for all troubles, and helps to overcome crude situations, which after all are liable to occur in any country.

Well do I remember the distress of one lady, who had not then learnt to take things in this spirit. She had gone to some trouble to train her "buttons," and was horrified when some distinguished visitors called one day to hear his shrill voice calling up the stairs, with every word painfully distinct—

"Please, mum, here's a woman wants to see you."

Upon descending, the lady found her visitors still standing in the hall, the "buttons" evidently having forgotten every particle of training he had received. It took the hostess some little time to fully explain the situation away, and even then she was unpleasantly aware of the loss of dignity to her house.

Out West, many ladies, rather than keep visitors waiting, open the door themselves and let the callers in. This means much to the busy servant, enabling her as it does to avoid "tidying herself up" to answer the bell, and losing much valuable time, and saving her, too, many weary steps from the kitchen.

Some English servants have the idea that in the Dominion their duties must be very arduous and heavy, because only a "general" is kept. But the



very fact that the mistress and her daughters render them so much assistance is the reason that the households can be so well and easily managed with only one servant. It is essential, however, that all servants should be strong and healthy when leaving the Old Country. Canada does not ask for weaklings, although many girls who have felt "run down" most of the time in England have been enthusiastic about the beneficial effect of the bracing air in Canada, because on account of it they have become so much stronger and healthier. Some servants who have had the misfortune to become ill while in service have been more than grateful for the care and attention they have received from their mistresses. One girl said "that it was almost good to be ill to see people so kind."

This is, perhaps, sufficient encouragement to Mary Jane to try the freer life in Canada, where she is so badly needed.

## CHAPTER XII.

### HOSPITALS AND NURSES.

IN Canada, just as in England, a nurse will often find that the finger-post of duty points along a thorny, dreary road, leading seemingly to nowhere, and making her footsore and weary. She will need a stout heart, plenty of perseverance, great adaptability, much tact and patience combined with a sense of humour, as invalids in Canada are similar to those in England. Perhaps in some ways these necessary qualifications will be put to a severer test, while the nurse is learning the idiosyncrasies of her work in a new land.

It is a great mistake for a nurse to imagine that her duties in Canada will be similar to those at home. A clergyman of experience, living in Alberta, informed us that for the trained nurse there will be plenty of work, but she will have to combine all household duties with her nursing, put up with considerable 'roughing it,' and be contented with much that at first will be disconcerting. She must have a good constitution, and must be contented to live without luxuries and often with little comfort. After a time she will get used to these peculiarities, but if she

expects anything like the comforts of an English home, she had far better not go out to Canada."

This applies to the small Western towns or the country districts. In the cities her position will be very similar in many ways to that of England, but there will naturally be more competition in these big centres. All over the prairies skilled nurses are badly needed, but they are very hard to get. Anyone who is conversant with the conditions under which private nursing is carried out in the Mother Country feels a little cautious about strongly advising girls to take up their calling in a new country, in case they do not possess an adaptable disposition, and will do more harm than good to their profession. And yet there are many advantages accruing to this work, which several British nurses have been clear-sighted enough to see.

An English girl wrote asking me for advice concerning the most suitable locality and the best way of becoming known as a nurse in the Dominion. She had three sisters at Vancouver who were married, and another in Alberta in the same happy state. They were most anxious that she should join them, because she could earn £7 a week at private nursing in some places, besides having in many ways a much better time than in the Old Country.

As her other sisters liked the life and the country, one did not feel nervous about urging this girl to try her fortune there. I advised her, however, not to demand too high fees, as in her initial struggle this would perhaps prove a "bar sinister" to her success. In the bigger towns and cities in the West nurses

can get £5 per week now, yet it is a mistake for them to expect to receive this for every case. Especially is this an unwise expectation while they are building up their connection. Those who decide to take no case unless they can receive these high fees are quite liable to be out of employment a longer time than they wish for. A wise nurse, therefore, will exercise the law of "give and take" where her fees are concerned, and will then prove a true blessing to many a mother who will willingly pay a good fee, but cannot afford to offer £5 per week. A nurse must remember that while she is following her vocation her expenses are *nil*, but with the high rate of living her board will be an expensive item to her employers. Let her demand £5 per week by all means from those who can afford it, but let her also bear in mind that this high figure will preclude many others from engaging her, however anxious they may be to do so. The only alternative is for the patient to be sent to one of the hospitals, and many object most strenuously to this, taking them as it does away from home, with all its happy associations, to be amongst strangers. Mothers who have children feel very keenly about leaving them, their anxiety during the separation causing them to imagine all sorts of impossible catastrophes. Many a time I heard mothers bewailing their inability to secure a nurse, the drawback being the high fee.

As they very truly say, £5 per week is all very well for a short time, but when the nurse is required for a month this fee is more than some can afford. One would think some nurses would be glad of a month's

free board and lodgings with £3 per week rather than lose a case, especially where a servant is kept, as the work then would not be very heavy. But no, they think it pays them better to do little work and get the high fees. From their point of view it is of course quite right, but it is unfortunate that they cannot see it with the mother's eyes. Taking £3 a week from one patient would not hinder a nurse from getting £5 a week from someone else. Nurses are in many cases an absolute necessity, so are always sure of employment, provided they do not overcrowd any particular place.

I remember a Western town where that did happen for a short time. It was undoubtedly the almighty dollar which proved the magnet, for nurses came flocking in, seemingly expecting to reap a golden harvest in a very short time. Even with all the doctors located there, it was impossible to supply sufficient cases for so many. Some of the nurses had the good sense to pass on to some of the other towns, leaving those who were left a sufficient amount of employment.

One thing undoubtedly helps to keep the supply of nurses down, many of them marry. Men seem to find them specially attractive, and perhaps the secret of that lies in their sympathy, which of course is much developed by their work. Men at heart are very much like children, especially when tender, sympathetic tones are employed, and nurses excel at this. Besides, nurses are singularly devoid of moods, their work demands a large amount of self-control, for it is to their interest to study the patient and not

## HOSPITALS AND NURSES.

themselves. In the bustling, rushing Canadian life, the men folk are keyed up to the top pitch, and soothing, helpful society is everything to them. Their realisation of this induces them to take the irrevocable step to secure this society for life. An opening for another nurse is thus created, and yet pessimists in England state that Canada is overdone and that there is no work to be had. Work is there in plenty, for the right people and in the right place. In the smaller towns along the railways, with a population of 1,000 inhabitants, there is good scope for nurses, provided they are willing to take the country as it is.

A woman of mature age, who would not be above doing work incidental to nursing, when not actually engaged in professional work, ought to get along very well until the smaller town is big enough to afford cases sufficient for all the work time at her disposal. By this means she will grow up with the town, which will probably enjoy a very rapid growth, the growth peculiar to new towns in a new country. If the nurse has made herself popular and has proved capable, she will have secured a firm foothold that no new-comer will be able to dislodge.

Many have found in Canada that there is nothing like being in "on the ground-floor," as then it is comparatively easy to lay a solid foundation before others come crowding in. This naturally entails a certain amount of putting up with things, but all who want to climb in Canada must realise that no success is achieved without work, self-denial, a patient pursuit of the object to be attained, and a

determined spirit which will not own itself beaten. When looking at the successful ones in Canada, people are too apt to overlook or forget the hard fighting on their part which made them successful, and to describe their success as pure luck. It is well to remember that opportunity knocks at most doors in a new land. The pity is that many are too idle or too unenterprising to notice it, foolishly waiting for something more suited to their tastes to turn up. We forget that ideal dreams never come true all at once, but must be worked out by ourselves, from what perhaps appeared to have no resemblance to them.

If the prospect of starting in a small town does not seem very alluring to a British nurse's mind, she must remember that the kindness and good-heartedness of the inhabitants is usually proverbial.

Nurses who have taken up their profession in the right spirit, who are anxious to have a broader scope for their energies, who possess some of the pioneering instincts, and, above all, have a robust constitution, will be happy and satisfied in such a sphere of usefulness.

Thinking that the actual experience of a young English nurse, who had started her work in a comparatively small town, and grown up with it, would be of value to all those in the profession interested in the Dominion, I sought her out to secure particulars. She had been described to me as a very successful nurse, conscientious and obliging, and only gave up her profession when marriage overtook her.

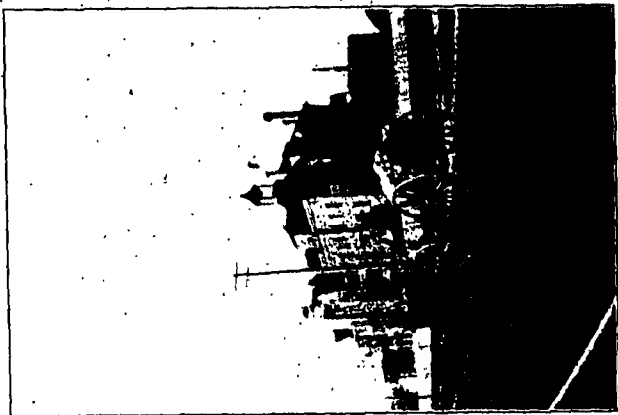


*A Canadian Hospital.*





*An English nurse in Canada, who by marrying has made room for another.*



*General Hospital in Edmonton.*

"In the West," she said, "where young people are constantly getting married, and the country rapidly building up, you will very readily understand that the majority of cases which a nurse is offered are maternity cases. In some ways this is a drawback, as it makes the work a little monotonous, and does not give the nurse experience in the other branches of her profession. Of course, in the hospitals there is more variety, but my remarks refer to private nursing, which I think preferable in many ways. The remuneration is much better, the nurse has more free time, and is able to have her little rests in between cases. This does away, to my mind, more or less, with the monotonous routine which is unavoidable in hospitals.

"When a British nurse decides to emigrate," continued my informant, "it is, perhaps, the best plan for her to write to the clergyman of the district she wishes to locate in (sending a stamped addressed envelope for a reply), asking what opening there is in his particular town, and requesting the name of some leading doctor there, who would naturally be able to give fuller information. Before I came West, my brother made inquiries from one of the leading medical men here as to the amount of work I might reasonably expect. It seems that a better time could not have been chosen, for this doctor was needing a nurse very badly, and promised me as much work as I could manage, provided I came at once. Such an opportunity I took care not to lose, and in a short time my trunks were packed, my farewells to my English home were over, and I was *en route*

to the West, full of wonder as to what was before me. The doctor was as good as his word, and there was work waiting for me as soon as I was rested after the long, tiring journey. There is a certain demand for nurses all over Canada, but it is very much greater in the West, particularly in the smaller towns, which keep springing up and have a phenomenal growth, which it is difficult for the conservative British mind to understand, unless it has been transplanted there. Even then, it is often slow at grasping the new conditions.

"But to return to your question regarding nurses who want to enter the Dominion. If the clergyman sends a satisfactory reply, the nurse may safely emigrate. If she is not the only nurse there, and is anxious to become known, I think she needs to neglect no social opportunities which may further this object. Undoubtedly, the church, whichever denomination she belongs to, will be one of her best friends. Although a doctor can, of course, put many cases into her hands, and while the town is small, and competition in her profession non-existent, give her all the work she requires, yet later on, when there are, perhaps, other nurses, and mothers can pick and choose, she will find they prefer to decide for themselves. Especially is this noticeable in maternity cases. Some plucky, enterprising girls have taken positions as housekeepers, in order to become known in the town, and after this has been accomplished have done very well at private nursing. It is certainly a good plan to do away with the initial expense of waiting. Girls who are

competent need have no difficulty in securing positions as housekeepers, provided they fully understand what is required of them in the West. The right kind of girl is sure to land on her feet, for she will allow no obstacle to stand in her way.

"I certainly was lucky," continued the nurse, "in having no tedious waiting upon my arrival. It seems to me I entered this town at the psychological moment. There were few nurses, apart from those in the hospitals, the town was growing rapidly, and, as I said before, the doctor for whom I chiefly nursed was needing competent help very badly. Sometimes I had to take cases where no servant was kept, and that of course made things hard, and yet, perhaps, it was not so bad as it sounds. You see, housekeeping is on such a different basis in the Dominion. The houses are small and compact, and the husbands, in the time of illness at any rate, generally help quite a lot. However, I found it quite a novel experience. All the professional feeling a nurse has in England, is in some ways absent here. She must be prepared to cook all the patient's food, and where no servant is kept, the rest of the cooking will fall on her. In other words, she will be both nurse and housekeeper. Quite a contrast, you see, to England, where not only neat-capped servants are at your beck and call, but probably the members of the family are only too anxious to render any assistance that is possible. Of course, like everything else, there are advantages as well as disadvantages to be met with while nursing in the West. I had often quite a good time when at a case, was taken

for nice drives, and even went to hockey matches and to dances. On these occasions some relative or friend took care of the patient during my absence, and it does make one feel able to put up with things when people are so kind and considerate, realising that a nurse's work is hard on the brain and body.

"Where a servant was kept one naturally had an easier time. As I became better known, I gradually took only those cases, for the work was so much easier, and that meant much to me, because I was not very strong. I remember being at a non-servant case, when my sister called one evening, hoping I should have a little spare time. All day I had been busy with the mother and baby, and now was at last free to attend to the pile of dirty dishes in the kitchen, which had been accumulating all day. My sister was a veritable godsend at that moment, while she kept up a constant run of light chatter, which seemed so welcome after the quiet of the sick chamber all day, and we soon had all the dirty dishes put away. How horrified some of our English friends would have been to have seen us doing such so-called menial work, especially those from the little provincial towns. When girls come out to Canada they must get rid of all those stupid, snobbish ideas, and let their minds become broadened."

For a few moments there was silence, and then the nurse smiled, and a reminiscent look stole over her face, which I saw promised me some more useful information.

"Not only does a nurse take cases in her own

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town," continued my companion, "but at times opportunities occur for a wider field of usefulness. I went to cases 'down the line' several times, and well do I remember one patient I had, because she was, about the most thankless, unreasonable woman I ever encountered. It was a maternity case, and no servant was kept. Everything passed off successfully, which compensated me in a large measure for the great amount of work outside of my nursing I seemed to have. Added to this was the task of getting the drunken husband quietly upstairs every night. He was disgusting. He never insulted me in any way at all (I will give him his due there), but you can imagine how dreadfully unpleasant it was for me. Pure, stern duty, and a love of my profession, made me stay at that case, for with the grumbling patient, besides everything else, I was much tempted to pack up my things and go. One evening the woman complained because I had not darned her husband's socks! I soothed her by saying how delighted I should have been to do so, had she let me know they were in need of repair. I never thought of becoming sewing-maid as well. You will understand how essential it is for nurses to take up their profession with the loftiest of ideals, in order to meet these untoward circumstances. That case was quite unique. In all my experience I never had a similar one, but other nurses might find themselves not so fortunate. It is most essential that they should realise how necessary it is to take the good and the bad together, at any rate till their position is assured.

"Canadians will probably not agree with me when I say that at that time they did not properly realise what a professional nurse is. I really was laying the stepping-stones for the safe and easier transit of those who followed. Things are very different now in some of the towns, and certainly in this city. Servants have become more general, the houses are more comfortable, and the patients inclined to regard the nurse in a professional light. If I had not got married, and I have no wish to be single again, I would have enjoyed nursing here immensely. So much money is to be made out of it too. My fees were £2 18s. a week, and that was looked upon then as a very high charge, because it was so much more than the previous nurses had demanded. Now the fee is £5 a week. I have often joked with my husband about the matter, telling him that if hard times fall on us, he must stay at home and mind the children while I take up my profession again. I heard of one married nurse who did take cases for a time, in order to help her husband out of a financial difficulty. Some of my fellow-nurses who have married say it really is a temptation sometimes to give up their home duties for a while in order to make a little money on their own account. You will, perhaps, think us horribly mercenary, but if you could have seen us at our work, you would put such an idea completely out of your head. People have been writing and talking a great deal about the demand for nurses in the farming districts. There is a great want, it is true, but if a nurse hopes to make money, she is liable to be disappointed, as

many of the farmers can only pay nominal fees."

It seemed to me that anyone who had listened to this nurse's story of unflinching devotion to duty, could have seen her bright face, and have heard her laughing tones while describing some of her difficulties would have realised the reason of her success.

Although the advice given to girls contemplating taking up nursing, and wishing to live in the Dominion, is to receive their training in Canada, yet those who have become qualified for this work in England or elsewhere are most certainly not debarred from securing work and achieving great success, provided they possess the ability and willingness to adapt themselves to new conditions.

The following terse statement made to me by a leading Emigration official can speak volumes to all those nurses in England who wish to enter Canada:—

"Hospital nurses trained in England are not considered very favourably in Canada, the opinion being that they are more or less old-fashioned and unadaptable, and certainly the physicians of Canada prefer the Canadian-trained nurse; while, on the other hand, my experience shows that the English-trained nurse invariably impresses her Canadian *confrères* in the same profession as a grade or two lower than the English training provides, and any English-trained hospital nurse is making a mistake in assuming that position."

To put the matter in a nutshell. The English-trained nurse wishing to go to Canada must be



content to leave England and her customs behind her when she has crossed the ocean to seek a new sphere of usefulness in the land where everything is nothing if not "go ahead."

For the girl who wishes to receive her hospital training in the Dominion, the following information will be helpful. In the province of British Columbia (and very much the same conditions will prevail in the other provinces) three requisites are demanded :—

(1) High school entrance certificate.

(2) Health certificate from a physician.

(3) Moral standing certificate from a clergyman.

The length of training required is three years, with a two months' probation. Probationers receive \$6 (£1 10s.) per month for the first year, \$8 (£2) per month for the second year, and \$10 (£2 10s.) per month for the third year. This scale of pay is somewhat higher than the English hospitals offer, where the probationer generally receives her training in return for so many years of service to the hospital, her salary for the first two years being £8 or £10 per annum, rising up to perhaps £20 the third year. In Canada the uniforms are provided for the nurses, In England, although the nurse usually receives all or part of her uniform, yet she cannot count upon it in every case.

In Canada the probationer is expected to work from 7.0 a.m. to 7.0 p.m., with an hour's rest. She gets half a day's holiday every alternate Sunday, half a day every alternate week, and two weeks' holiday is allowed her every year, while three weeks is allowed in case of illness.

The Victorian Order of Nurses was founded in Canada in 1897, to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of her late Majesty Queen Victoria. The Countess of Aberdeen, who has done so much to help nurses in the Dominion, lent her valuable aid towards establishing a central training home for trained district nurses, and providing a maintenance fund, so that the Order has been placed upon a permanent basis. There are branch hospitals from Halifax to Vancouver. The Victorian Order is not only content with nursing, for the nurses by example and precept are doing a good and useful work among certain classes of people. Mothers are given instruction in the care of their children's health and the importance of hygienic living.

The Countess of Minto helped on this movement with the Lady Minto Hospitals. Grants from this fund are made to assist in the erection of hospitals, to be maintained in connection with the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada. This useful Order is principally supported by voluntary contributions, church collections on one Sunday in the year, and various entertainments.

The English nurse wishing to emigrate to Canada can secure much useful information from the Colonial Intelligence League of 36 Tavistock Place, London, W.C., of which Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, is President. This Society endeavours to supply women with detailed, practical and up-to-date information concerning any openings which may exist in the Dominion. They hope later to found Settlements in the Colonies, where training suitable

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to the needs of each Colony can be given, and which will form centres to which the girls can return in the intervals of employment.

It cannot, however, be too strongly impressed upon nurses that not only is it wise to have some capital, however small it may be, during the waiting time, but that it is most necessary, if travelling alone; to be in communication with some reliable person before arriving in the West.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### SPORT.

SPORT must surely have been in the Creator's mind when He planned Canada, for her mountains and rivers, forests and lakes, and the unexplored wilds all offer the sportsman abundant facilities for gratifying his tastes.

The highlands of Ontario, which are situated in the wilds of Eastern Canada, and yet are in close proximity to Toronto, have attracted hundreds of tourists, many of whom have been accompanied by their wives and families. Their enthusiastic descriptions of the scenic grandeur, exhilarating atmosphere, and sporting facilities of this wilderness have induced many more to "strike the trail," and as we listened to their experiences, which slightly resembled ours at Wabamum, we decided at some future date to pitch our camp in the Canadian highlands. This Elysium, which is far enough north to be cool in the hottest day in summer, is the haunt of the sportsman seeking fresh fields for his ardour, the angler eager to cast his fly in new waters, the camper-out and canoeist.

But it was the stirring tales of the wonderful Rockies which thrilled us most, and made us

determine to see this grand work of Nature where wild animals roam at will.

In the meantime we found that our preconceived ideas of the non-sporting proclivities of the Canadian people were as erroneous as many other pet fallacies we had seen exploded. Sport "forms quite an important part of the social programme in the West, and if Canadians do not appear to indulge in as much muscular exercise as the Britisher their excuse may perhaps be found in the fact that nearly everyone in Canada is not only very actively engaged in earning a living, but determined if possible to make money. No restricted little salary for the optimistic Westerner; his games may suffer while he puts forth his best efforts, but this is, generally speaking, only a temporary cessation.

During the winter skating becomes almost a craze, and the climate gives Canadians every opportunity of encouraging this. Rinks of all descriptions are "run up," where skaters are usually certain of securing a good piece of ice. Sometimes a rink is formed on the river, as owing to the heavy fall of snow it is not generally possible to skate with any comfort on uncovered waterways. However, we were fortunate enough to be staying in Edmonton when many energetic skaters were able to travel a mile along the Saskatchewan River. The ice had thawed and then frozen over, so the river was as smooth as glass, and remained in this perfect condition for a couple of weeks. When the snow was inconsiderate enough to descend again we were forced to return to one of the rinks.

Most skaters have season tickets for the rinks ; the price is very much reduced for the ladies, and this chivalrous rule is followed in most of the clubs. Skating parties are frequently arranged, and the happy recipient of an invitation is bound to have a very jolly time. At these parties the invited guests meet at a rink, probably on a band night, and skate with each other until ten o'clock, when the rinks close. They then proceed to the house of their hostess, where tea, coffee and cake are served. The beneficial effect of the exhilarating exercise is made apparent by the high spirits of the guests.

Later in the evening the happy voices may be hushed while some singer delights her listeners, or perhaps a male escort who has given the impression of being good for nothing, but light, foolish chatter, will thrill the hearts of his hearers with his singing. If a piano is not among the household goods a round game will be started, but sometimes no form of entertainment is considered necessary, the guests prefer to sit still and converse with each other. Happy little informal gatherings we found them, which cause very little work for the good-natured hostesses and provide good, wholesome exercise.

At various intervals ice carnivals are arranged, when prizes are awarded to the best-dressed lady and gentleman, the best-dressed boy and girl, and for the best comic costume worn respectively by a lady and gentleman and a boy and girl. A prize is also presented to the best lady and gentleman skater, and it is a real pleasure to watch the graceful, gliding motion of the skating experts.

At the first ice carnival we attended we found it difficult to realise that we were in the "wild and woolly West." Graceful little fairies, with gossamer dresses and wings, flew past; then I recognised our old friends Darby and Joan, who came along with slow, painful steps, but were unmistakably attached to each other. They were soon overtaken by the immortal maid, Joan of Arc, who looked a little incongruous, because she had blossomed into a big, tall woman. It was nice to see her there all the same, bringing to my mind old French histories learnt with a charming "mademoiselle." The fat man and the lean man came along, the former requiring plenty of space, and seeming to find his superfluous "flesh" rather cumbersome. An apt illustration of the Real Estate men was given by a girl who was covered with placards of "snaps" to be bought at alarmingly high prices. Several people were noticeable with "false" faces, the hair hanging over their own countenance and a false face fastened on to the back of their heads. It looked a little gruesome to see these people skating, with their heads apparently turned round the wrong way. They made me think of those individuals who persist in looking at life from the wrong side, casting their eyes ever backward on some lost chances, instead of bravely facing things and conquering them. Squaws and Indians mingled with the motley crowd, and gave a touch of the old times to the very modern gathering, which provided much pleasure for the onlookers as well as those in costume, and was entered into with a zest and spirit peculiar to the West.

But nothing draws a crowd to the rinks like a hockey match. Hockey is the great winter game, and is one of the most exciting and strenuous scenes that it is possible to witness. Fast and hot the contest is, while the players skim over the ice at a really alarming pace, and the "forwards" make one wonder how they manage to preserve their equilibrium. The audience stand in their excitement, and some even shout, while others wave their caps in the air and by various means try to urge their favourite forward.

Our first hockey match gave us the impression of delirious excitement, and in spite of our determined efforts to preserve a cool attitude, we found ourselves being as "Canadian" as the rest of the audience. Fancy skating of all descriptions we had previously witnessed in other countries, but it takes a Canadian hockey player to make one feel to the fullest extent the glorious exhilaration that can be secured from skates. Canadians are able to excel at hockey, for owing to climatic conditions they have ice during many weeks of the year to practice on, and from boyhood they avail themselves of the opportunity.

Sometimes amusing and ridiculous matches are given for the enjoyment of the onlookers, when half the men appear dressed as women, and their strong language when a skirt persists in clinging round their nethermost extremities at a critical period in no way spoils the fun. The ladies show a sympathetic appreciation.

Tennis is becoming more popular in the West on



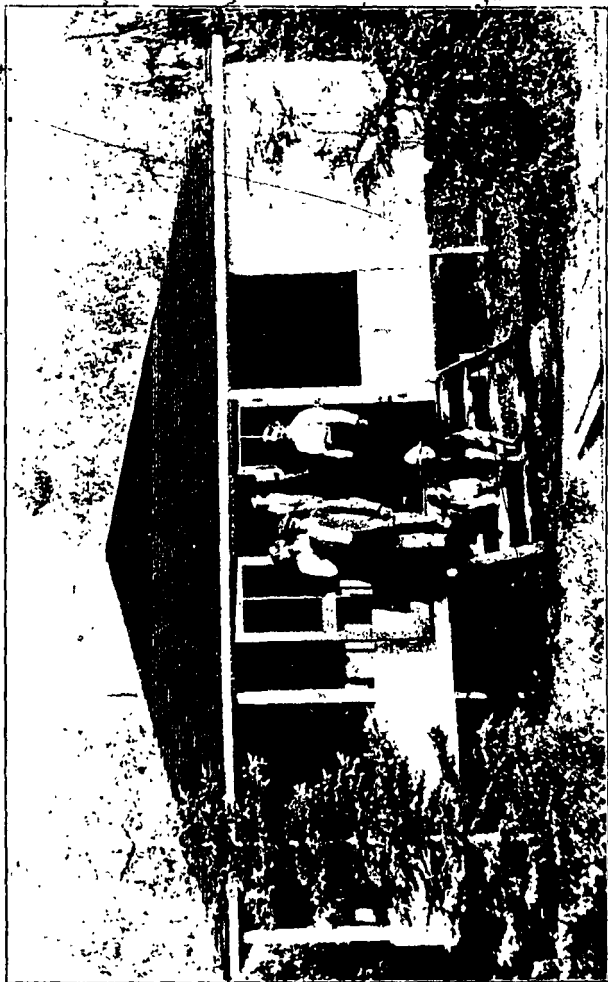
account of the increase of English settlers. In the capital of Alberta several clubs of various sizes were formed, consisting of one, two, three and even four courts. In one of these clubs tea was served every Saturday by the lady members in a little collapsible hut, when the attendance was very large. Tournaments were arranged, and every possible encouragement was given to the game. The wonderful clear sky enabled us to play until nearly eleven o'clock at night, when the beautiful cool evening air revived our flagging energies after the heat of the day. The ladies in their pretty white dresses and the men in their spotless flannels suggested England rather than Canada as they flitted about the courts, but we missed the green lawns; we also missed, too, the preponderance of women.

Cricket and football have some followers, but lacrosse and base-ball are far more popular amongst Canadians. Football usually is confined to the summer months, and perhaps is too strenuous for the hustling Westerner when the thermometer has been steadily rising.

Although the men usually indulge in some form of sport, the Western girls, with the exception of ice and roller skating, show little inclination for violent exercise. Cycling was popular amongst ladies some years ago we heard, but now very few are seen "wheeling." I remember when we were cycling along some Western roads some children remarked in very surprised tones—

"Just look, there's a lady on a bike!"

Some of the fair sex are excellent horsewomen,



° A Summer Shack by a Lake in Alberta.



*Chanagan River.*

but equestrians are not very numerous, except on the farms, on account of the price of horse-flesh.

Golf is becoming more and more popular, and the Edmonton links often presented quite a festive scene as various couples dressed in suitable attire followed the elusive, temper-destroying ball. Some of the women entered into the game with the greatest zest, while others regarded it more as a social enterprise. In the West it scarcely seemed to become the happy hunting-ground of the flirt, although certain couples at times did bring a smile to the onlooker's eyes.

Perhaps the Western girl has more sporting tendencies than we imagined, but owing to early marriage her hands are soon occupied with the care of her husband and children, and this may account for her love of driving instead of more violent methods of procuring the fresh air. Her figure is well developed and athletic, although generally speaking she is not so tall or so slender as her English sister, but broom exercise and the iron, not to mention the wash-tub, develop her muscles as surely as tennis, golf or hockey. She is often the mother of large families, and the amount of work she can get through in a day is really surprising. Her walk has not the same graceful swing as the more athletic English girl, but it possesses a business-like, alert and determined air that is quite unique. It gives her figure rather a stiff aspect at times, but leaves the impression in one's mind of a capable and smart woman who would find her feet in any corner of the globe should she be transplanted.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### A TRIP THROUGH THE ROCKIES.

WITH the advent of spring, we decided to follow out our intention of seeing the Rockies, which Mr. Edward Whymper, the well-known Alpinist, has described as fifty Alps rolled into one. We boarded the train for Calgary, where we intended to remain a few days. The journey over the rolling prairie, which is interesting only on account of its wonderful vastness, was rather monotonous. Various little towns, some of which are flourishing wonderfully, and form the nucleus of the farming settlements surrounding them, were the only items of interest which passed before our eyes. We therefore turned our attention to the passengers, and in that charming, friendly manner Canadians have, and which seems so essential to the well-being of the tourist on the long journeys across the Dominion, we were soon forgetting everything but the wonderful tales we heard of the old cowboy days, when almost impossible feats were accomplished with bucking bronchos, or steers which had to be roped. The tales were picturesque and stirring enough to satisfy the most satiated palate, and in imagination we weaved a wonderful halo of romance around the heroes; but as the raconteurs warmed up to their work we had

our doubts, as the Scot would say. English pessimists had informed us that the Canadians, like their country, were crude and lacking in imagination; but what a different tale they would have told could they have sat in one of the comfortable arm-chairs of the parlour-car of the train, as we rushed through the haunts of the cowboy.

Broncho-busting and cow-punching are rapidly becoming things of the past, and soon will be a mere memory, for this phase of Canadian life is ceasing to exist, as land is becoming too valuable to allow of large ranches. These are being converted into ready-made farms by the enterprising Canadian Pacific Company, on whose railway we were travelling through the Rockies. Soon the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway will have their trains running in a more northerly direction to the Pacific coast, when a choice of routes will await the tourist.

We reached Calgary in the evening and were able to secure comfortable quarters. Calgary has often been described as an English city, because of the large number of English people who have settled there. Its old aspect has entirely changed during the last couple of years, for it has been under the influence of an almost phenomenal growth, owing, perhaps, to the ready-made farms which lie around it. People have flocked in from all quarters, and the town presents rather a fine appearance, with its stone buildings, well laid-out streets, and smart inhabitants. The Bow River, which runs swiftly in its vicinity, helps to beautify this city, which has become known as the Metropolis of Alberta. One

point is always impressed upon the new-comer—the active rivalry which exists between Edmonton and Calgary; but never was this rivalry so keen as when the former became the capital of the province.

After enjoying the hospitality which some of the Calgary inhabitants had lavished on us, we boarded the train which was to take us through the mountains. Our first stop was Banff, which is a charming place among the mountains, and is much in vogue for rheumatic sufferers. Many travellers spend the summer at this spot of beautiful views, where canoeing, driving, walking or mountain-climbing can be fully indulged in. The Canadian Government has set aside five thousand square miles to be kept for ever as a National Park in its natural state, in order to preserve some of the typical Canadian animals from extinction. In a corral of eight hundred acres is a herd of buffaloes, which is a mere remnant of the thousands that once covered the plain and even stopped the trains, till indiscriminate slaughter nearly exterminated them.

Banff might be described as the entrance to the Rockies, that bare, gaunt range of mountains which filled us with awe and wonder. The observation car, with its sides and roof of glass, enabled us to see the mountains from every point of view. Some of these were of such a majestic height that we were obliged to look through the roof to see the summit, and with the clear, bracing air fanning our cheeks, we understood why this scenery has been named the Cathedral of God. Not a sound disturbed us save the snorting of the engines. We seemed to actually feel the

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majesty of Nature, and unconsciously the words of the Psalmist, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help," came to my mind with a new significance.

We forgot about time till the train halted at Laggan, which is the station for the Lakes in the Clouds. These, as the name leads one to expect, are of unsurpassable beauty. At Lake Louise a chalet has been established for the comfort of tourists. This chalet is situated among surroundings of the wildest and grandest kind, and the view from the verandah over the snow-tipped peaks and the great glaciers is one that lives in the memory for ever.

A picturesque and surprising sight at Laggan are the Swiss guides, who are allowed to return once a year to their native country. They represent an old-world civilisation, and give quite a unique finish to the elemental, primitive country. British mountain-climbers are evincing an increasing interest in the Rocky Mountains, and particularly in the doings of the Alpine Club of Canada, which had its first gathering on August 2nd, 1909, when everything was arranged to meet the requirements of all Alpinists participating in the programme planned by the Club.

A representative of the *Canadian Gazette*, who proved to be an entertaining companion, gave us some interesting particulars regarding this Club. He informed us that the Alpine Club of Canada was organised a few years ago by a band of patriotic mountaineers, who had already realised the great



wealth and grandeur of the mountain scenery of Canada. While mountaineering is, of course, the main object of the Club, there are scientific and artistic branches for those lovers of Nature and the mountains who are disposed to lead a less strenuous life than mountaineering demands. The annual camps are organised for the summer of each year.

Arriving in camp, one is directed to the President's tent, the register is signed, and quarters in a certain tent are allotted to the applicant, while a small boy picks up one's belongings and escorts the new member to her place of abode. The general feeling of *bonhomie* that pervades these camps has done much to make them popular, and immediately upon arrival the new member is at once enjoined to make himself thoroughly at home.

Membership of the Alpine Club points the way to a holiday that is full of delightful pastimes, genial companionship, and accommodation which, although in a great *meuré* *alfresco*, is none the less enjoyable when one considers the majestic surroundings. Quarters for ladies and men are situated in attractive level spaces, with ample accommodation for diners, all the furniture being of Nature's own making. A good-sized tent is allotted to the kitchen.

Behind this tent are two modest erections, one for the President and the other for the Secretary of the Club. Between is a bulletin board, and in front an octagonal enclosure of logs, in the centre of which is nightly built a huge camp-fire. This enclosure may well be called the Club's sitting-room, for it is there that the triumphs of the day are talked about.

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The programme of climbs and trips for the next day is posted on the bulletin board immediately after supper, each member notifying the President as to which trip he prefers. On these trips the guide leads the way through wooded slopes, and up the slanting base of a mountain, making stops here and there in order that the party may enjoy the marvellous panorama that unfolds itself to their wondering eyes. Soon the steeper faces of rock are reached, and the party is roped. Cautiously the guide proceeds, making a way for those who follow, until finally the summit is reached. The party, after a rest, takes a new route for the descent, chosen on account of its enormous snow slopes.

The camp, quite deserted all day long, is the busiest place at night. Everybody assembles to enjoy its warmth and cheery crackling, and the singing and chatter of the assembled group are the only sounds that break the silence of the forest.

Although we were unable to participate in such a delightful holiday, our tour through the Rockies afforded us sufficient enjoyment for the time being. After leaving Laggan nine miles behind us, we reached the "Great Divide," where a stream parts and sends its waters down two slopes under a rustic arch, bearing the words "The Great Divide." One rivulet flows west, and ultimately finds its way into Hudson's Bay, while the other takes a shorter route to the Pacific Ocean.

Our journey was much enlivened by the picturesque descriptions given by our acquaintance of the *Canadian Gazette*, so that our next stopping-place,

which is very popular amongst tourists, seemed to come all too soon. Field is a little village at the foot of Mount Stephen, which towers 6,500 feet above the railway, but we decided to resist its fascinations, and to continue our journey westwards. It was not long before we left the Rockies and entered the Selkirks. These, with their luxuriant vegetation, covering them like a mantle, were a welcome change after the cold grandeur of their bare, rocky comrades, and seemed to speak of life and hope. But all poetical fancies were driven from our minds as we descended to the level of the Illecillewaet River, by the famous loops of the Selkirks, a piece of engineering equal to any that has been attempted in the most difficult country in the world. The loops form a track in the shape of a double S, and this wonderful part of our journey filled us with admiration for the brave and dauntless men who carried the railway through in spite of Nature's perverseness. The view was simply magnificent, and in its impressive grandeur made us feel very insignificant atoms in Nature's great workshop.

At Glacier we were allowed half an hour in order to get a very good dinner, which is served at the hotel for seventy-five cents (3s.), for owing to the steepness of the grade no dining-car can be carried on this part of the journey. We were very glad of the little change, and of the opportunity to study the interesting phenomena of glaciers. The hotel is under the shadow of Mt. Sir Donald, which rises 10,600 feet; and this naked pyramid has its sides

scarred by glaciers to a height of a mile and a half above the railway. The great glacier of the Selkirks rears its majestic head not far from here.

A peremptory summons from the train made us all hurry to take our seats, as even the most good-natured conductor must strictly adhere to time on such occasions. The Glacier Hotel is to be complimented upon its table d'hôte dinner, and never shall I forget how the waiters simply poured into the spacious dining-room as we entered it. Each man carried a plate of soup, and before that was disposed of the fish was beside us. Many of the passengers were commenting upon the marvellous rapidity of the service, which enabled us to have a good meal of several courses in about twenty minutes. Some of the English travellers regretted that more of their compatriots did not know of the comfort, ease and comparative cheapness of Canadian travelling. Railway fares, that is ordinary first class, exclusive of parlour and Pullman cars, may be calculated at three cents a mile, but the most economical plan is to buy a book of one thousand mile tickets, allowing of "stop-overs."

Travelling in Canada is very different to what it is in England. In some ways it is much simpler, although passengers are expected to look after themselves to a greater degree, in spite of the fact that the officials travel with the train. A negro porter makes the beds at night and keeps the car in order during the day, while magazines, books, fruit and chocolates can be procured from the newsagent, who walks right through the train at various intervals.

We had received several visits from him, although we were supplied with literature, but as he never became a nuisance, his quaint remarks amused us. The train was gradually carrying us out of the towering Selkirks into a land of broad rivers and forests, which came as a relief after the majestic mountains. As we travelled through terrific cañons, and crossed tremendous bridges over the noble British Columbia rivers, our pretty English scenery suddenly assumed a miniature aspect in our imagination. No wonder the Canadian has a broad outlook upon life, for in a land of vast spaces, towering mountains and huge forests the most unimaginative creature cannot fail to be impressed, and to crave for big achievements. Nature almost urges her children to expand and acquire some of her vast grandeur. The morose man and the stiff, cold woman who had joined the train at Calgary had developed into congeniality by the time we were nearing the Pacific terminal, and even waxed enthusiastic upon the beauties of the panorama through which we had too swiftly passed. A look of youthful joyousness literally transfigured the man's face as he turned to his awakened partner and planned ways and means of making the return trip longer. The Rockies had cast their magic spell upon them, just as they had upon us, and as the train drew up at Vancouver Station, we came from the unaccustomed heights with a mental jerk, and found a scene of bustling confusion.

Vancouver, with its purple mountains forming a background for the placid sea which washes its

shores, is a very beautiful city, and is remarkable not only for its great industries, but for its very rapid growth. Its mild climate and natural beauty cause it to be regarded by many as the most attractive city in Canada. Its people are thoroughly cosmopolitan, for being a port for the East many nationalities help to swell its population. Chinamen are very much in evidence, and prove excellent servants for the busy women, who find it difficult to procure other kind of labour.

Stanley Park, which is in a natural state, is one of the sights there. Huge trees tower up to heaven, one of which is so enormous that a team of horses can be comfortably placed inside the large hollow which has been formed by Nature. We heard of some Americans who were "doing" Vancouver, and upon their arrival at the "big" tree were so delighted at its size that an engaged couple in the party decided to have the nuptial knot tied inside its trunk. A clergyman was found, and the ceremony performed, to the great delight of the party and the amusement of the onlookers. The trolley which takes tourists through the principal parts of the town and around Stanley Park for a very reasonable sum was the same one, the driver assured us, that carried the happy couple away from the big tree. It was comfortable enough and smart enough for any purpose, and the lucid descriptions of the various places of interest showed the driver to be a man of some education.

We made many interesting excursions from Vancouver, but perhaps the most enjoyable was

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the round trip in the *Princess Victoria* to Victoria, on Vancouver Island, through the beautiful Gulf of Georgia, then to Seattle, a town of terraces in the States, and back to Vancouver. The steamer, a Scotchman proudly informed us, comes from Glasgow; and when we found that she accomplishes the trip in twenty-four hours, we understood his pride in her.

The charms of Victoria had been so graphically impressed upon us, that we decided to remain there a few days to see the sights. This we did in the most comfortable manner by travelling in an "observation car," similar to the ordinary electric cars in Canada, without sides, and therefore suitable for sight-seeing. A guide, who imparted a bureau of information through a speaking-trumpet as we whirled along at a great pace on the single line, accompanied us to the various places of interest along the route, and certainly dispelled any ignorance which existed. The three hours were so varied that we decided to repeat them on another day.

Victoria impressed us as being the most English town in Canada, and is full of English people. Its slow, sleepy aspect, which is all the more noticeable after the hustle of Vancouver, will soon be a thing of the past, for Victoria, like Calgary, is developing rapidly, as Vancouver Island has caught the western ambition for growth. The octopus, we heard, appears in Oak Bay, which is an inlet of Victoria, but in spite of repeated visits to this pretty part of the shore, we failed to catch a glimpse of him. The many charms of Victoria it is impossible

## A TRIP THROUGH THE ROCKIES.

to ignore, but it was Vancouver which made the most vivid and lasting impression upon us, when we had reluctantly decided to leave the Pacific Coast to return for a short time to our prairie friends. The city seemed so thoroughly alive, and radiated happiness on all sides in a manner which set our own pulses bounding, and we could almost smell the optimism in the air, which is justified by the prosperity of the place. Man and Nature go hand in hand in this British Columbian Province, to the advantage of both, for the latter freely gives up her riches to the former when he shows the courage and the grit that she requires.



## CHAPTER XV.

### THE CANADIAN CLIMATE.

PERHAPS the climate has received as much if not more attention than any other subject touching Canada. Optimists have held forth at great length upon the subject in a worthy endeavour to impress others with the fact that it is ideal all the year round. Pessimists have expounded their usual gloomy views in their determination that other people shall not be misled, and have emphatically stated that it is "quite the limit."

We found after our lengthy stay in various parts of the Dominion that neither gave a true impression. It is just as impossible to generalise about the climate as it is to treat the country, people, conditions and openings in the same sweeping fashion.

At times Canada's climate is glorious, delightful, invigorating and inspiring; at others it is detestable, disheartening and disappointing. Like the little girl "who when she was good was very, very good, and when she was bad she was horrid," so is the atmospheric condition which is commonly called the climate. It needed no meteorological reports to teach us that the "good" time is very much more in evidence than the "horrid" time, and this happy

fact is undoubtedly the reason that Canadians are able to overlook and forget, to a certain extent, those detestable days which occur at certain intervals during summer and winter, when the elements seem to combine to produce in man a temper of the most non-angelic order.

Another potent factor in this happy forgetfulness is the wonderful blue sky. We gazed and gazed at it during summer and winter, looking in wonder at its heavenly blueness and clearness which no clouds blotted from our view. The delightful warm beams emanating from that magic firmament dispelled not only personal dejection or weariness, but rendered the country an almost impossible habitation for microbes. Nothing causes these detestable little visitors to make themselves scarce like a good dose of undiluted sunshine.

The health-giving properties of the Canadian climate have been exemplified repeatedly. We learnt this not only from Canadian and English doctors, Government reports, and such reliable sources, but from various stalwart specimens of manhood and womanhood transplanted from British soil in a poor, delicate condition. They really blessed the day that their feet touched Canadian soil, and when we looked at their strong, healthy forms we saw no relic of past delicacy.

Eastern Canada, with its moist atmosphere, which ensures fresh, rosy complexions, possesses a very different climate to the prairies. This vast flat, rolling space, with its dry, exhilarating atmosphere, which has proved a magnet to so many, acts like

a tonic on ~~the~~ man of phlegmatic disposition, and is therefore perhaps unsuited for the very highly-strung individual who cannot get away for a change from time to time. Ridiculous tales of the intensely cold winters in the prairie provinces had been related to us in England, but it is safe to say that while the thermometer in winter may register several degrees more frost than in Eastern Canada, the cold is not so much felt on account of the dryness of the atmosphere; and when the bad days come one has always the happy knowledge that the cold snap will last only a short time. It is also well to remember that Canadian heating has been brought to a fine point of perfection, and while the elements may rage outside, no discomfort is felt within, as every corner of the house is heated. Even the little children are safe; and because of the sun, which I have mentioned, there are, generally speaking, very few days on which the youngsters cannot play outside, if only for a short time.

English people who have suffered greatly from throat trouble at home have been delighted to find that this has disappeared in the dry air of the prairies. Those who prefer a climate similar to that in the British Isles will find it in British Columbia on the Pacific Coast. At Vancouver the combination of mountain and sea gives the city an air which is noted for its "feeding" properties, and it really is surprising how people in a thin or "poor" condition put on flesh.

The Canadian climate is responsible to a great extent for the grain-growing proclivities of the



*A boy dressed for the cold weather.*



*A Prairie Flower.*



*Stanley Park, Vancouver.*

country. The long sunlight of the far North grows wheat that makes whiter flour and better bread than any other wheat in the world. The wheat of Northern Alberta gained the first prize at the Philadelphia Exposition, and the oats in the Edmonton district took first prize at the Paris Exposition.

On the prairies the "open season" is apt to be rather short, so that agriculturists have to rush the work; but few seem to consider this a really serious drawback, as hustle is the keynote of Canada's success. Ploughing ends usually about November 1st, although it is sometimes possible to turn up the furrow a week or so later. The time when the land opens up varies very much; some years it is possible to plough in March, while in others this necessary operation has even been delayed until early May. Much depends upon the depth of frost in the ground. It is a curious sight to see the frost coming out of the earth sometime after the snow has disappeared and the gladness of spring is in the air. The dry, hard roads become very wet, so that a new-comer wonders if the water-cart has been along, and this process of evaporation continues until the sun has succeeded in drawing every bit of frost from Mother Earth. This moisture is a great asset to the agriculturist, and causes far less inconvenience to the dwellers in our nearest dominion beyond the seas than the endless downpour which descends upon all at home.

The Canadian rainy season on the prairies is June as a general rule, and if the rains prove abundant and steady the farmer is quite willing to dispense

with any further instalments. We saw them both abundant and steady, when a "harem skirt" would not have come amiss; but after the absence of rain and fogs during the whole of the winter we rather revelled in these "summer showers." With surprising suddenness they would sometimes appear, and the first time we saw them we realised that even in the matter of rain Canada has ways of her own.

The roads become badly affected during the rainy season, when travelling is apt to be something that calls for patience and endurance. A drive, which usually affords a certain amount of pleasure, is something to be avoided, except by those who do not object to being thrown about the vehicle. Pedestrians don rubbers (goloshes), and often experience some difficulty in keeping them on, for mud has extraordinary suction powers. The farmer watches Nature's drenching process with a happy eye as his creeks and pools fill up, for this means the safety of his stock during the summer and the saving of much labour. The town-bird grumbles not, for he knows it means wealth to the country, some of which will find its way to his pocket, and the soft, humid atmosphere is very soothing for a time after the air which has been likened to champagne, and which is perhaps responsible for the sparkle of some of the Canadians.

And when summer bursts forth in all her luxuriant, almost tropical splendour, what a feast for the eye is the medley of colours painted against Nature's green background in those portions of the Dominion where Nature is lavish in colour. The prairie, too,

ceases to be mere green grass as the sun tans it to a light brown, while the frogs which had croaked out their happy songs in the various pools which have sprung up on all sides disappear with the same suddenness as their watery habitation.

Pretty, bright dresses of a delightfully feminine and dainty description appear on the trim figures of the girls, and make one wish that the English climate permitted such attire to be worn for the same length of time as does "My Lady of the Snows." In the more Eastern parts the touch of the Frenchwoman's hand is evident in the toilets, while in the West the spirit of freedom and love of the fresh air and sunshine is evidenced by the bare arms and necks and the simple little frocks. It was rarely that we saw a girl who presented a bedraggled or slovenly appearance on the streets, but sometimes wished, and still wish, that more care was observed in the home. As one Canadian girl rather neatly put it, "We keep our best clothes for outside and outsiders; you don't yours in the home, and aim to look best for your relations." She was kind enough to add that ours was the nicer way, and her remarks came as a refreshing change after the criticisms which Canada's daughters have often hurled at our style of dressing. It should be borne in mind that what looks quite well and in place in Canada's land of sunshine and newness would appear very peculiar, shall we say, in the streets of London.

The climate is not only responsible for the different styles in dress, it also produces that sunny temperament which is so marked in Canada. While English



people, like their climate, are apt to burst into gaiety at the most unexpected moments, the Canadians seem to always feel jolly. This gaiety is very infectious, but lacks the attraction which uncertainty always possesses. We began to expect it as a matter of course, and fell into the habit, as Canadians often do, of terming people dull who were not able to talk with great gusto. It is apt to be almost too strenuous at times, or perhaps the English constitution is not yet adapted to it. It is certainly spontaneous and sincere.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### BOARDING AND ROOMING HOUSES.

THE boarding-house in Western Canada is ubiquitous. Its necessity is plainly demonstrated by its thriving numbers, for in some towns, particularly in those enjoying a rapid growth, the number of these godsend to the lonely bachelor is really surprising. The boarding-house manages to squeeze itself between stores of various descriptions, to appropriate quite a goodly portion of some of the streets in the East end or bordering on its fringe, and to penetrate the ambitious exclusiveness of the prosperous West end when the streets or avenues are not too far distant from the centre of things. With its advent come changes, for often houses are vacated as a protest against its existence in their midst, and these disgusted occupants move farther West. With their departure go the Englishwoman's happy, vague ideas concerning the democracy of Canadians which had shocked her a little at home even while she expressed her delight, but later she finds that it really does exist amongst the women who do not pose as the smart set, although their position and wealth entitle them to this ambiguous designation.

The multiplicity and prosperity of Western boarding-houses made us wonder if there was not

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an opening for our compatriots who are leading colourless, monotonous lives on restricted incomes at home should they possess the pluck and inclination to emerge from their old ruts. It was no silly story of wonderful wealth secured under ideal and unheard-of conditions we wished to weave, but good reliable facts based upon actual experiences. By dint of much questioning from our various friends, we secured sufficient information to convince us that in this matter of boarding and rooming houses Western Canada did indeed offer a possible means of making money, but only to those who understood the business from the Canadian standpoint. English methods would spell failure just as surely as lack of capital.

Starting a new boarding-house is no easy matter, and the possible methods are as diverse as in other businesses. Some women whose capital was very limited have very sensibly rented a small house with accommodation for two or three boarders only. The income has been supplemented with "boarders by the day," a plan very much in vogue in the West. Twenty-five cents per head was charged for each of the three square meals which are customary in Canada, and the plain, homelike food was much appreciated after the hotel cooking.

One woman informed us that she had made a comfortable income by starting in this way, and although the work was hard at first because she could only afford occasional help, while she saved money to enlarge her capital, yet it had not really hurt her. Her big washing, such as sheets and table-

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cloths, she gave to one of the laundries. Some laundries wash and starch clothes for forty cents (1s. 8d.) per dozen, and an enterprising, struggling landlady can often manage to do her ironing in between whiles, and so keep down her expenses.

When a woman has enlarged her capital she can take a bigger house and increase her number of boarders. It is very essential to study the requirements and conditions of the town before deciding upon her style of furnishing and her "table," as, should she soar above the needs of the place, her house is liable to prove a white elephant. This is especially essential in the smaller growing towns where bachelors predominate, as such men require more primitive comforts than refined surroundings, and are much happier without endless knick-knacks, fragile furniture and unnecessary restrictions regarding smoking. They must be allowed to come and go as they please, sprawl where they wish, and not be bothered.

While staying in one of the large Western cities we had an interesting chat with the landlady of a high-class boarding-house situated in the West end, which was proving highly successful. She and her sister, who through the loss of their parents had been obliged to earn their own living, had secured a large three-story house. They experienced no difficulty in securing boarders, but as their house was convenient, well-kept and contained a bathroom for each floor their success was not surprising.

We were no more amazed to learn of the various bathrooms than we were to hear that even in the

so-called Wild and Woolly West the landlady is irritated at times by the posing of some of her guests, who expect her to bow and scrape to them, and do their best to impress her with their alarming superiority. As she was a Canadian and these delinquents were her compatriots, her pungent remarks, interspersed with contemptuous sniffs, were as enlightening as they were interesting. With her back straightened, her eyes flashing fire and her voice devoid of any soft modulations, she seemed to embody angry indignation, and we felt sure that these "snips," as she termed them, would receive a valuable lesson at her hands.

After swallowing her momentary anger and apologising for her outburst, she explained that the work, which really was not very heavy, was performed by themselves with the aid of a little girl. Washing is made easy with a washing machine and ironing with electric irons, which dispense with hot rooms and much "stoking" becomes a healthy exercise, while a bread machine renders bread making a child's work, as all kneading is dispensed with. As we listened to her description of her methods we understood why she was so successful, for she had learnt the main essential of running a Western boarding and rooming house with profit—to save labour by employing machinery, and thus dispensing with the necessity for servants, and to be willing to use her hands as much as her head.

She considered that a married couple could do better than two women, as the man could do the buying, clean the windows, attend to the furnace

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in the basement, which heats all the rooms, and do any gardening that might be required.

Her prices were really moderate for Western Canada—\$30 a month was the *lowest* she charged for board and room, \$26 a month each for double rooms, and \$18 a month for board only.

On Sundays she showed her social abilities by playing, singing and entertaining her boarders generally, and at Christmas and New Year she gave parties, when each male boarder was allowed to bring a lady. She found these little social amenities were a great help in holding her boarders together, as they were bright, entertaining and absolutely devoid of stodginess. Give Canadians a room, a piano and permission to clear away the furniture, and happiness is assured, for tipping the light fantastic toe is their favourite pastime. English people show a similar taste after a short sojourn in the West. These little parties are, perhaps, the best kind of advertisement.

The success of these sisters we considered really amazing, when we learnt that they had secured it on borrowed capital. This \$2,000, which with the interest they were repaying in half-yearly instalments, had been their only capital, without which, of course, their boarding-house would never have existed. An Englishwoman, without a knowledge of Canadian methods and conditions, would be more than foolish to start a boarding-house in a similar manner, and even should she possess the former, would, of course, be running a big risk by following the example of her Canadian sisters. The Englishwomen who have made boarding-houses pay in the

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West have been those who were content to start in a small way, and to gradually build up their business. It is a fact that many women who have commenced in this manner have been able to retire from business inside of ten years with enough to keep them in comfort, but these have been the hard workers.

We heard of an English couple who opened a high-class boarding-house in a most suitable locality, and yet met with failure because they aimed at too much style. The bedrooms were too large, and consequently deficient in number, and everything in the house bespoke luxury and exclusiveness, which is not what Western Canada yet requires in boarding-houses. It was gratifying to learn that an English couple who took over the house later managed to make it pay very well, because they supplied what the town required. Their prices were subsequently much more reasonable, and this enabled many to take up their abode there who formerly had considered the place beyond their means.

In the smaller towns it is usually the bachelor who haunts boarding-houses, as girls generally prefer to board with some family. Many women are only too glad to supplement their husbands' incomes by taking one or two boarders, who often are personal friends. Not only do they make the house more cheerful, but help to pay the high rent, and the girls often secure a very good home. English people, generally speaking, do not take kindly to this idea, but Canadians have not the same feelings about the privacy of home.

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We were much surprised when we first arrived in Canada to learn that at many houses where we were entertained roomers were kept. Many of the married people considered it an excellent plan to let two or three bedrooms, as this paid for the rent. As the roomers were out all day, they really felt as if they had the house to themselves. Social ambition, strange to say, was often the real cause of this custom, for the women, anxious to become social lights, felt the necessity of securing large reception rooms, which entailed the upkeep of a house not compatible with their means. Paradoxical this social advancement appeared to us, but social status in Western Canada is not regulated by our standards.

Roomers pay \$15 a month for a bedroom and \$12 a month each for double-bedded rooms. Sometimes even \$20 a month has been offered for a room in a nice house, but this price is of course exceptional.

A young married English couple, anxious to get on in the most approved Canadian fashion, rented the whole of their bedrooms, two of which were double-bedded ones. With the money accruing from this and the wife's singing lessons the money which had been borrowed to build the house was quickly repaid. A little later it was sold at a good profit, and a larger house was then secured. The old roomers were supplemented by others, and before long a handsome offer was made for the new home, which they promptly accepted. With this capital they moved to a larger city, where the husband secured a post with a liberal salary, and all further necessity for roomers ceased to exist.



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To make a living entirely out of a rooming-house is by no means an easy matter, although some women have met with great success. We heard of a lady who owned such a house in Winnipeg, and made £200 clear profit in two years. She had, of course, a large number of rooms, and reduced her expenses by doing all the work herself, which included her household and personal washing. Only a strong woman could have successfully achieved all this.

The minimum amount of roomers with which a rooming-house can be run with profit is eight. If each of these paid \$15 a month this would ensure an income of \$120 per month, and if two of the rooms could be double-bedded ones, each tenant paying \$12 a month, the monthly income would be \$138. The initial outlay required for furniture, linen, etc., would, of course, seriously affect the profits at first, but this is where capital makes all the difference.

It is undoubtedly a good plan for a landlady to own her own house. Rents are high, and property in the West is an excellent investment in itself, provided a fancy price is not asked for it. It is generally considered more profitable to borrow money to buy a house, even if the rate of interest is high, than to pay a high rent, but in matters of this description judgment and common sense need to be brought into requisition.

Advertising is popularly supposed to be the best medium for securing boarders, and sometimes this is necessary, but it is generally astonishing how two or three boarders will manage to bring the remaining number. Perhaps good letters of introduction, one if

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possible from an important church dignitary, will be an effective help, and undoubtedly the Church in Canada and such societies as the Y.W.C.A. will all be willing to give sensible advice and information.

The Englishwoman who has not the enterprise to spy out the land for herself, even if she goes as a working housekeeper for a time, will certainly not be successful as a boarding-house landlady in the West, for she lacks initiativeness and the capacity for working out her own salvation without various extraneous supports, and helpless femininity is bound to go to the wall in a new country where the women have learnt to take care of themselves. Neither is there a place for the languid, simpering specimens of womanhood; but to the alert, active and capable woman Canada has already proved her welcome to be sincere and substantial.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### FARMING AND FRUIT-GROWING.

THRILLING and picturesque stories of the lady farmer had assailed our ears, and through these we came to the conclusion that a woman had at last found an Utopian way of earning her own living. We heard of the delightful attentions of fellow-farmers, who regarded a woman agriculturist as a great acquisition in their midst. We heard of alfresco meals with gallant attendants which savoured of picnics; of wonderful machinery which turned work into play; and of the golden harvest which awaited these playful efforts at work; and then we came face to face with the facts, which differed in every respect from the fantastic, romantic tales which had been poured into our ears. All our rosy views on farming, whether grain, poultry or fruit growing, disappeared, for we discovered that only the strong, hardy, eminently practical and really hard-working woman could even hope to reap a good living from that wonderful black loam of the prairies or the richness of the British Columbian soil, after many a heart-breaking experience and the absence of all luxuries and many comforts.

And all this we note, not to deter the right kind of women from trying their fortune in the far West, but

to lift the veil which is apt to be drawn over the drawbacks incidental to such an enterprise. The hours are long, especially at certain seasons, but it is a healthy outdoor occupation for those who possess the physical stamina. The gently-nurtured, sheltered and irresponsible type of English girl would be mad to dream of following such an occupation, for she is unsuited to any kind of life in the Dominion. Girls from large families, where the purse has not been very long, and who have acquired the habit of doing without many things, are perhaps more likely than any others to make a success of a farmer's life. Some training is of course necessary before embarking upon such an enterprise, as ignorance is sure to spell failure. Excellent institutions exist at home and in Canada, where orcharding in all its branches is taught, as well as poultry and bee-keeping, dairy work, etc. One year of training is generally deemed sufficient for a girl of ordinary capabilities, provided she is keen, an early riser, and not afraid of work. Perhaps a colonial training is preferable, as the girl farmer learns colonial ways and methods, which are just as essential in farming as in any other occupation.

The Canadian Government has encouraged men to take up farming by offering them 160 acres of land, but this privilege has not yet been extended to women, as the officials fully realise the difficulties and hardships which a woman would encounter. After watching the farmer at work, not for an hour or a day but for weeks, we could not help agreeing with the existing opinion amongst farmers in Canada

—that the hard and heavy work is unsuitable for women. We heard of odd cases where modern Amazons had many acres under cultivation, but these were exceptional and should not point the way to others.

Lighter work, such as fruit growing, poultry farming, the cultivation of flowers, bee-keeping, etc., is considered more suitable, and of this we had opportunity of witnessing excellent results. Experience, practical knowledge, and starting in a small way opens the door to success, while haphazard knowledge brings haphazard or no results. Great judgment is necessary when deciding upon the locality, and never must the girl-farmer settle too far from a town.

Eggs retail in summer at thirty-five cents a dozen and in winter from fifty to sixty-five cents. Poultry retails at twenty-five cents per pound. Hens, ducks and geese do well in the Pacific Coast districts, but turkeys do better on the prairies. We met several farmers' wives in Alberta who were able to considerably supplement their husbands' incomes with their turkeys, as a good price is paid for them at Christmas time.

On a poultry farm equipped with houses, runs and water two women could manage five hundred fowls. A man would be required occasionally to plough up the runs and keep them wholesome. By systematically weeding out the poorer layers it is possible to bring the average laying of hens up to 150 eggs a year. By taking the actual results of over ten dozen eggs per hen, some idea of the profits of poultry

farming can be given. Should the market price be from twenty-five to sixty cents a dozen, an average price of thirty-five cents a dozen can be counted on, or a gross return of \$3.50 each fowl. Feeding will cost about \$1.25 a year for each fowl, which leaves a net return of \$2.25.

While British Columbia offers exceptional advantages to poultry farmers, with its near good markets and shipping facilities, yet the prairies, with their threadwork of new railways and little towns springing up, offer a good scope. Indeed, more than one enthusiast asserted that so long as the railways continued to grow the poultry farmer could not make a mistake in settling there.

A fair amount of capital is required, as the price of cleared land is high, and uncleared land entails a large outlay in labour; for in spite of what some women say, the initial hard work must be done by men.

For fruit growing no province, perhaps, offers such facilities as British Columbia. In this respect a statement made by Sir Thomas Shaughnessey, President of the C.P.R., will be of interest:—

“British Columbia possesses stretches of territory where soil and climate so work together that they produce one of the most fertile districts in the world. These districts have beaten the oldest fruit-growing lands in the world in competition for the gold medals annually presented by the Royal Horticultural Society of England.”

“Less than a decade ago British Columbia produced less fruit than would supply a fraction of her population. In 1907 the new trees planted totalled

over 1,000,000, and the prairie provinces have come to depend upon her exports for a large part of their fruit supply.

"In many British Columbia districts semi-tropical fruits—olives, apricots, nectarines and grapes of rarest quality—grow to full and luscious maturity. The size and flavour of the peaches, apples, plums and cherries are unsurpassed.

"This new British Columbia industry is carried on amongst the most delightful conditions imaginable. This land of mountains and valleys, of deep, cool lakes and lovely rivers, has in combination in the territories where fruit is grown the most glorious scenery, a climate that is truly ideal, and opportunities for healthful and interesting outdoor life equalled by perhaps no other country in the world. Distinguished visitors have freely admitted this. Earl Grey, when he visited the New Westminster Exhibition, expressed the general opinion of men of keen observation when he said, 'Fruit-growing in your province has acquired the distinction of being a beautiful art as well as a most profitable industry. Here is a state of things which appears to offer the opportunity of living under such ideal conditions as struggling humanity has only succeeded in reaching in one or two of the most favoured spots upon the earth.' Added to the beautiful natural surroundings and to temperatures that are never extreme are the chances the country affords for sports, for excellent shooting, boating and fishing. These are features that have appealed especially to Old Country people, and thousands have settled there."

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Ten acres are considered sufficient for one man to cultivate, and there are instances when \$500 to \$600 per acre profit has been made. These lands can be bought upon terms of payment that early crops will help to pay for.

Women who do not possess sufficient capital to start farming could combine with two or three others. This would lessen the initial outlay, and do away with the incidental loneliness that a girl must feel when first away from friends and home.

In the Okanagan Valley, a part of British Columbia which is noted for its beautiful climate, it has been estimated that the cost of bringing ten acres of fruit into bearing, inclusive of cost of land and cost of trees, cultivation, etc., up to the fifth year, is somewhere about \$4,000; the fifth to seventh years the returns from the fruit should pay expenses; from the seventh year on the minimum net profit should be \$100, raising up to \$500 per acre. It rests entirely with the individual who looks after his orchard. Small fruit and high-class vegetables, strawberries, and potatoes can be grown between the trees. The fruit market is the entire north-west provinces, England and Australia. The English market can take all the high-class dessert apples that can be grown, namely the Cox Orange Pippin and the Newtowns.

In a new country it is impossible for the supply to equal the demand in fruit and vegetables, and this necessitates an increase in imports. Those who cannot afford to start on a big scale have splendid prospects offered them if they secure a small holding



of land in the vicinity of some city with good transportation facilities. Lettuce, tomatoes, celery, cucumbers, rhubarb, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, currants and larger fruits grow to perfection, and bring high prices in British Columbia.

Nova Scotia, as well as British Columbia, offers great openings for fruit growers, the latter attracting many on account of its fine climate, the former on account of land being cheaper and its nearness to the Old Country. However, where mixed farming is concerned, the prairies must not be overlooked. We heard of an English girl who, after being thoroughly trained, took up farming on the prairies. She found the life enjoyable and was getting on most successfully, when the farmer on the adjoining land was pierced with Cupid's arrows and came to her to be cured. The inevitable happened, and now that girl is the happy mistress of her one-time neighbour's home, prized and cherished by him as a wife and true helpmeet.

Bee-keeping, which is a profitable industry as a "side-line," can be carried on in any part of Canada, but the warmer regions would be more profitable. British Columbia is ideal for bees, and produces honey of delicious flavour, but Eastern Canada also offers good prospects. On the prairies the farmer has more difficulty in growing sufficient flowers, but many make a nice little profit from their hives, for honey retails at twenty-five cents per pound. We had not the opportunity of drawing comparisons as to the flavour of Canadian honey, as we only tried some on



*A Lady Poultry Farmer.*



*Girl Farmer at Work.*

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the prairies, which was as sweet as the proverbial honey. It was then that the conversation turned on to the various "side-lines" which help to swell the profits of Canadian farmers. One man caused much amusement by asserting that mushrooms, when properly handled, could be a very paying concern. His statement was received with some ridicule, but he refused to retract it.

"How do you do it," inquired one, "wait up all night for them to grow?"

This question was ignored.

"Do you know that large quantities of mushrooms are imported in British Columbia, for the local contribution is very light, and as the price is always high you can see for yourselves that mushrooms could be made profitable. No, the results would not be of a mushroom description, but something more endurable; and if you do not credit my words, write to the Director of the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa."

We asked if mushroom growing was suitable for women, and received an answer in the affirmative.

The "side-line enthusiast," as the others good-naturedly called him, told us of another novel way of enlarging one's income by making "flies" for fishing. British Columbia, with its salmon and trout streams which bring fishermen from all parts of the world, was the favoured spot, but the demand for flies is so small that no woman should dream of considering this seriously.

One other branch of farming deserves mention, although it did not impress us as offering great scope

for women—dairying. Experienced women would soon get employment, but there is not a very general tendency amongst farmers to employ dairy-maids who only do dairy work. The farms are usually too small, unless they are in a class almost large enough in their operations to keep a creamery, and the dairy-maid who is unwilling to do other kinds of work would probably suffer from lack of employment. Butter retails in summer at thirty to thirty-five cents a pound and in winter thirty-five to forty cents.

For the woman with capital, knowledge and experience it is another matter, and she could make a good living with dairying when combined with poultry farming, for the work is well suited to women. Of this we had no opportunity of forming an opinion based upon actual observation, but received sufficient information from reliable sources to convince us that British women would do well seriously to consider the matter.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### ODDS AND ENDS.

"THERE is no country in the world which offers such openings for the fully-qualified or fully-equipped woman as Canada," said a clergyman who was residing there; "but the girl who has romantic ideas of 'trying colonial life' is not suited to its needs." Visiting a country is very different to earning one's living, and in the case of the latter the very conservative or elderly woman is as unsuitable as the woman who loves luxury and comfort, and lacks all initiative. These usually help to swell the ranks of the failures.

We heard of women who were making good incomes as dressmakers, but they were able to cut out tailor-mades in the latest styles, renovate and remodel old frocks, and, in short, were thoroughly competent at their craft. During their initial struggle they had taken the precaution to go out sewing by the day, for which they received anything from \$1 to \$2 a day, and board. When their connection justified the step, they started in business for themselves. Many a good class dressmaker, in spite of the splendid opening existing in Canada, has at first met with failure, because she started a business without knowing anyone in the place; or,

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what is perhaps equally as important, she was either too slow, or did not understand Canadian tastes and requirements. Western Canada, it may be mentioned, offers greater scope than the East, perhaps on account of the population growing more rapidly.

Not only are Canadians particular in their dress, but their hats receive as much attention as ours at home. It amused us to read in the papers about the Grand Millinery Openings which were to take place on certain dates, and we decided to attend one of them. White linen with black lettering was stretched across the shops, and intimated to passers-by the treat that was in store for them. Some of the creations were really wonderful, and we watched women coquetting with them before the mirrors with intense interest, but they often presented a better appearance when properly arranged on the heads of the victims by the clever saleswoman than when reposing on the stands. In the miscellaneous collection were some really becoming and elegant hats, which were quickly snapped up by those with taste, who were delighted to feel that they had secured the latest thing from England. I had not the heart to inform them that these precious chapeaux had already done good duty at home before we left, for the shapes were pretty enough to enjoy a long life.

I think I never realised so fully the great difference there is between an English woman's face and a Canadian's till I tried on some of their headgear. The milliner recognised the fact when she remarked

that Canadian hats were often unbecoming to English women, because they had smaller features as a rule. Perhaps this peculiarity has been noticed by others, for some English milliners have arrived in the West and are doing exceedingly well. One was recommended to me, and I decided to see what she had to offer. The hat I purchased there was considered becoming and chic by my friends, and the price was reasonable for Western Canada. It is really amazing what some Canadians will give for their hats, and Englishwomen of a similar class would be shocked if I named them. Some of them have become a little tired of spending such large sums, and this gave our English milliner her chance in that town. She blessed the day that she had dared to leave London to start a new business in the far West, for now solid success was hers. At first she had found it a little difficult to adapt herself to the different requirements, as in Canada no "between season" hats are required. She made hats to order, and kept but a limited stock on hand, as she found that this was the most paying way of running the business. Canadian milliners, judging from their shop windows, do not hold this view.

English milliners have good scope in Canada, for more and more of their compatriots are flocking into the country, some to stay as wives, others to keep house for brothers and others, again to earn some of those dollars which have drawn them from home. Various callings are being successfully filled by English women, but it is not our intention to attempt to boom Canada as a place where women of any



capacity can succeed, because failure is always lurking near the unwary, ignorant and mistaken.

Sometimes it is sheer bad luck which is responsible for a lack of success, and sometimes it may be a slovenly or dowdy appearance, while a personality which is not pleasing is often the bar sinister in spite of competence, earnest endeavour, and plenty of grit. Speaking of a repellent personality recalls an English girl to my mind whom we chanced to meet one day. She was keeping house for her brother, but a few months of colonial life satisfied her, and she then returned to her native land with warped ideas, bitter reminiscences, and a profound disgust for everything Canadian. She was sufficiently narrow-minded to call forth the indignation of her compatriots, for she possessed neither the will nor the wish to adapt herself in any way to new conditions. At the various social functions to which she was invited, the Canadians, both men and women, ultimately left her severely alone, owing to her attitude of icy aloofness. The Westerners have no liking for hauteur, for even with their friendly, sociable disposition, they like new-comers to meet them half-way.

As the girl possessed good looks, a knack of dressing well, and a fund of small talk, it was all the more unfortunate that she adopted such an unattractive attitude. It is even more unfortunate when such manners characterise those girls who enter Canada to earn their own living, for it is usually the prelude to unpleasant experiences or even failure.

The women with stout hearts, dauntless minds,

the spirit of enterprise and agreeable manners should be a success in Canada, and many a hand will be stretched out to help them. Perhaps the Church is one of the best advisers. When it is necessary a telegram is dispatched on a woman's departure inland from Halifax, and arrangements made to meet her at the station. This means a great deal to a girl travelling alone, and the Church continues to look after her and to bring her in touch with people who are anxious to assist her in every possible way, and to make her feel at home.

In Canada there is no established church. The English, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Roman Catholic are the leading bodies, all of which are designated as churches. And it matters not at all to which body one may belong when seeking advice from another, help is always forthcoming.

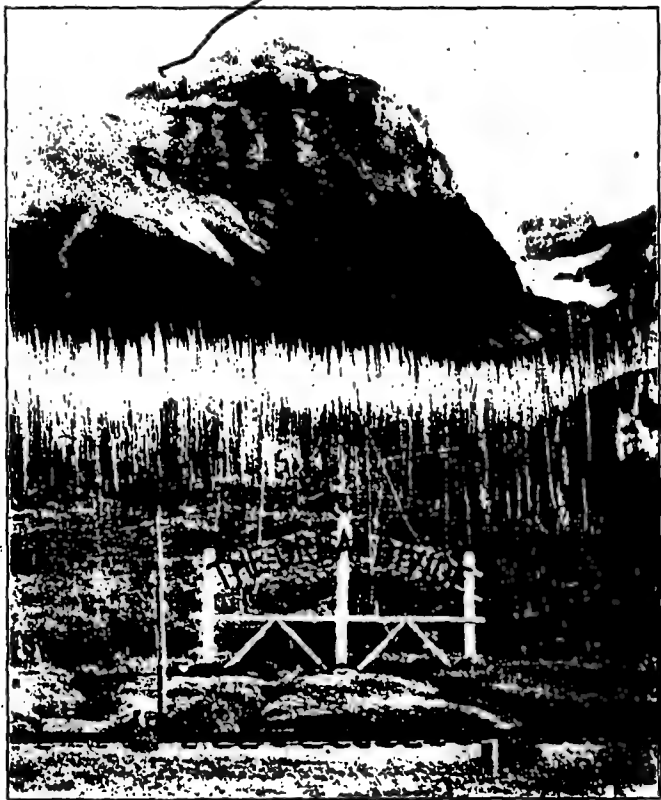
The Church is a power in Canada. It seems to us to be really a banding together of men and women for their mutual help and support, and everything is done to develop it along social lines. I remember being struck with a notice given out by an English Church Clergyman after the first evening service we attended. It read: "All strangers and newcomers are invited at the close of the service to make themselves known to me through the ushers at the doors, so that I may have the opportunity of getting their addresses, and calling upon them during the week."

Many a new-comer's heart has been cheered by this intimation, and several times we heard the

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clergy chatting to strangers after the service, and giving practical advice and sympathy.

Other sources of help are to be found at home, two of which I have mentioned in previous chapters—the British Women's Emigration Association and the Colonial Intelligence League. More and more light has recently been thrown upon existing Canadian conditions and requirements, so that women who enter Canada nowadays ill-advised or ill-informed have generally only themselves to blame for not seeking reliable sources. It is especially necessary to bear this in mind where the so-called home help is concerned. So much that is misleading has been written concerning this position that I feel compelled to enlighten English girls on the matter. The position of home help is a safe, cheap and sure way of earning capital to start in other work, of learning Canadian methods and requirements, and of feeling one's feet in a new country; but the work is hard and heavy, including washing, ironing, baking, scrubbing, etc., etc., and can, therefore, only be undertaken by the robust. To hold it out as a tempting bait for refined, educated gentlewomen is absurd, and it should not be regarded as a suitable *career* except for those used to domestic service; but it does serve as an excellent stop-gap for the purpose I have mentioned.



*The Great Divide.*



*"Circumstances, in which Cupid largely figured,  
recalled me to England."*

## CHAPTER XIX.

### REFLECTIONS.

WE look back upon our stay in Canada with mixed feelings—pleasurable gratitude for the kindness and hospitality of the people, regret at leaving them, and shame for our previous ignorance of the life and conditions existing there. Circumstances, in which Cupid has largely figured, have recalled us to our native land, and already we feel the absence of the glowing sunshine and infectious optimism of that fascinating West, which, claiming in no wise to be Utopia, yet possesses its own charms, which are somewhat difficult to analyse. The primitive element pervading everything, the vastness of the country, the habit of taking people at their own valuation, the simplicity of living, the presence of work amongst all classes, and the exhilarating atmosphere, all combine to make that intangible quality which belongs only to a country in the making.

We went to Canada with the idea firmly implanted in our minds that Canadians dislike English people and everything English, but it was not long before we discovered that those who have gone to the Dominion with exaggerated conceptions of their

superior birth, breeding and education have been largely responsible for this feeling finding root in the minds of Canadians. This is as irritating to them as the tactless comparisons they are regaled with at times by those who wish them to thoroughly understand that they miss the comforts of their beautiful English home, and to teach them the way things are done at home. This tactlessness has generated a certain sensitiveness in the Canadian, so that when he or she approaches the new-comer with the popular Canadian formula, "What do you think of our country?" it is more of a test question than it appears. A wise and judicious reply opens hearts and homes to the stranger, and the remark that politeness perhaps first dictated becomes a conviction.

Many of our friends have asked us one question since our return: "Is it true that there are no class distinctions in Canada?" As we have previously stated that the country is in no wise a counterpart of Paradise or Utopia, it is obvious that even in Canada women are still women. There, just as here, some women are puffed up with their own importance, and this is really amusing at times, because even the ordinary rudiments of grammar are not observed, and their etiquette or lack of it is almost alarming. As these women are never interesting, charming, or really effective, their existence need not trouble anyone who happens to encounter them. Whether the old colonial spirit is kept alive in all its charming sincerity rests largely with the women who keep flocking into the country,

and if these will foster and cherish it many a cruel stab and needless pain will be spared the humble worker, who is perhaps weighed down with home-sickness during her first struggles.

And another little point I should like to emphasise—dress. A Canadian lady quite startled me one day by remarking "that the most untidy women in this country are the Englishwomen. When they first come out they look so tidy and clean, but after a time they gradually become slack, and later go about their morning's work in such garb that no Canadian would dream of donning."

Observation taught me that this was an exaggeration, for I certainly noticed Canadian women who presented anything but a neat appearance. Like most sweeping statements, however, it possessed the proverbial grain of truth.

It is a great advantage to any girl settling in Canada to be handy with her needle, as even the making of blouses and simple frocks is a heavy expense which she could easily escape. In country districts the great difficulty of procuring a dress-maker is a bigger drawback than the prices, and sometimes her work leaves much to be desired.

A girl in Canada, on pleasure bent or earning her own living, undoubtedly helps to form the Canadian's opinion of England; and whether she holds imperial views or none at all, it is a decided stimulus to feel that she can, perhaps, help to strengthen the bond which already exists between our Canadian and British sisters by warm-hearted toleration, good-natured kindness, and genial



manners. This paves the way for others, and ensures them a welcome such as Canadians best know how to give. To them we shall always owe a debt of gratitude for giving us one of the pleasantest recollections in our existence.

The old and the new—in people, art, education, customs and manners—are gradually merging into one grand whole; and when that ideal has been realised Canada, indeed, will be something so vigorous, strong, lovable, and necessary to us that in the dawn of the better understanding which already is making itself felt we shall feel the revivifying effects which a new country has upon stale humanity. No longer will differences of speech, manners, customs, and ideas disturb the narrow-minded in Canada, for these will have lost their erstwhile mentality in a newer, broader outlook.

